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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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San Nicolas prevails in recount

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» San Nicolas leads by 9 votes as he got 2 more votes

Tinian mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas still prevailed over incumbent Tinian Mayor Ramon Ramon M. Dela Cruz, this time by nine votes, 705-696, during a recount of ballots for the Tinian mayoral race at a packed Tinian Superior Court.

San Nicolas

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, who presided over the recount, will hold a motions hearing to-

See RECOUNT on Page 1

Customs seizes 234 cases of liquor, 1,180 cartons of cigarettes from PH

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Division of Customs seized over 200 cases of liquor and more than 1,000 cartons of cigarettes loaded inside a 20-foot container from the Philippines after the importer failed to declare the items.

Customs director Jose C. Mafnas said the container arrived last Nov. 15 and was immediately subjected to 100 percent inspection by Customs officials.

"The consignee came for the release but prior to opening the container, the consignee kind of mentioned and apologized because he said they brought in liquor that they didn't declare. He also said there were cigarettes inside the

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

Possible lower LEAC in next months

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

With fuel prices decreasing in the last three months, not only are drivers paying less at the pump but Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers may also see a decrease in their power bills.

According to CUC board chair Dave Sablan Jr., "it is safe to assume that as oil market prices go down, CUC will pay less for the oil it buys under its contract with Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Thus, that reduced cost of the oil will most certainly be passed on to CUC's customers," Sablan said.

CUC has been reducing its Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC rate in the past months, prompted by the lower prices of fuel in the world market. That has contributed to

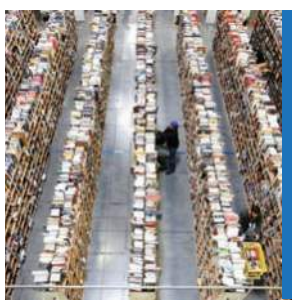
See LEAC on Page 4

HYATT STARTS HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The Hyatt Regency Saipan held its traditional tree lighting ceremony last night at their lobby in the presence of hundreds of community members and tourists. At exactly 6:15pm children from Make-A-Wish Foundation turned the switch on while carolers sung Christmas songs.

JAYSON CAMACHO

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Millions of Americans are expected to shop on the day dubbed Cyber Monday.

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ASIA

Pro-democracy protesters clash with police in Hong Kong.

» PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

"The Hunger Games" rules the Thanksgiving box office with $56.9 million.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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Local

2 men arrested for kidnapping, other charges

A man sustained serious eye injuries after his drinking partner allegedly beat him up while another held him at a residence in Kagman Sunday midnight.

The victim, Willie L. Brundidge Jr., suffered a fracture to the right eye and needed to be seen by another doctor. His right eye was swollen, police said.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki said that when she visited Brundidge in the emergency room of the Commonwealth Health Center on Sunday at 3:30am, he kept falling in and out of consciousness.

That same day, police arrested the suspects—Joy Inais Fred, 23, and Titomir Kapileo Bhuiyan, 21. They have been detained for kidnapping, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho kept the $11,250 cash bail the court earlier imposed on each defendant.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas had recommended increasing the $11,250 cash bail to $50,000 due to the seriousness of the crime and Fred's criminal history.

Preliminary hearing will be on Friday at 1:30pm.

Detective Kintoki said a police officer responded to a house in Kagman after a call was received about a beating incident on Sunday at 12:55am.

At 1:22am, two police officers saw suspects Fred and Bhuiyan exiting a car in the parking lot of the American Memorial Park. When confronted, Bhuiyan followed the police's instruction, but one officer had to use force to put Fred on the ground for allegedly refusing to listen.

A female identified as Fifi, who was allegedly in the car with the suspects, was also arrested. *Saipan Tribune* opted not to disclose her full name at this time as it's not clear yet whether she will be charged.

Kintoki said that during an interview later that afternoon, Brundidge stated he and Fifi had been drinking alcohol when they decided to go to the residence of her cousin. Fifi then asked her cousins Fred and Bhuiyan to go with them.

The four stopped by a store, bought a bottle of gin and proceeded to Fifi's house, where they resumed drinking.

As Bhuiyan, Fred, and Fifi were talking, Fred got up and allegedly punched Brundidge in the face. When the victim fell to the ground, Fred kept punching him in the face while Bhuiyan held him down.

Fred and Bhuiyan then forced Brundidge to get in the extra cab of the victim's vehicle and Fred drove the car.

Brundidge said he can't remember much because he was in a daze. He did remember that they stopped somewhere where Fred punched him again as Bhuiyan held him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hundreds join Hyatt's annual Christmas tree lighting

JAYSON CAMACHO
Children, family members, guests, and staff get ready to place "wish cards." Hyatt Regency Saipan marketing communications manager Luis Villagomez (third from left, front row) is seen assisting guests during the tree lighting ceremony.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Singing Christmas carols and spiritual songs, hundreds of community members and tourists joined Hyatt Regency Saipan in lighting its 25-foot Christmas tree last night at the lobby area.

The Umang Glee Club from Koblerville Elementary School serenaded the audience as Hyatt officials got ready to light the tree.

Children were given cards where they were told to write what they wish for this Christmas. They later placed their cards on a separate tree in the lobby area of Hyatt.

Drinks were also provided by Hyatt staff to those who joined Hyatt in the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Hyatt's marketing communications manager Luis Villagomez said that they do this ceremony annually.

"It's really a kick start for the holiday season and it is a custom of Hyatt, but the wish tree that we have only started last year and that is where the children will put the small writing templates we gave to them and write their wish and place it on the wish tree," Villagomez said.

One Korean tourist, Hyun Woo Lim, 37, said he and his wife, including their two little boys, enjoyed the ceremony. His wife, Seoyun Kang, said it was their first time to visit Saipan and loved how Hyatt displayed the holiday spirit.

"It is very nice, also it is very hot, but I am surprised that I see so many Christmas spirit here. It is beautiful," Kang said.

Catrina Pantaleon, 14, a Make-A-Wish Foundation Wish Kid who was granted her wish to go to Disneyland with her family last year, said she was happy to be there.

"This is my first time and Hyatt invited us out here," Pantaleon said.

Catrina was joined by her father Jess, mother Ana, Alyssa, and Earl during the ceremony and said that they were also grateful to be there.

Villagomez said this was the biggest turnout so far that he could remember.

Hyatt's acting general manager and director of finance Yosh Gabaldon thanked everyone for coming to the ceremony and said he hopes they would join in the holiday spirit at Hyatt.

Joeten Motors donates to Operation Homefront

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Joeten Motors donated a gift certificate worth $500 to the Operation Homefront Support 2014 last week.

» 230 addresses so far with Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront organizer Nola Hix said they are thankful to Joeten for contributing once again for this year's care packages that will be sent to more than 200 military reservists and active service members.

"The $500 gift certificate that we received will be used for purchasing whatever we are lacking for the care packages such as NMI flags and rice crackers," Hix said.

Hix said that so far they have 230 addresses. The last day for sending in address to Operation Homefront is tomorrow, Wednesday.

The care packages will be put together on Dec. 6 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 8am to 10am.

"All interested donors are encouraged to give me a call as no donation is too little or too small…and we look forward to sending out all the packages just in time for the holidays," Hix said.

Contact Hix at 989-6552 or email her at nola.hix@gmail.com.

JAYSON CAMACHO
Joeten Motors donates a $500 gift certificate to Operation Homefront last week for the use at Joeten Enterprises or any participating outlets. Seen in the picture are Joeten Motor staff and Operation Homefront Support representatives.

Gas prices down 20 cents on Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Island motorists got an early Christmas gift yesterday afternoon when gas stations on Saipan lowered their prices by 20 cents.

The Mobil gas station along Middle Road in Garapan said its regular unleaded gasoline is now $4.41 a gallon, down from $4.61, while its super unleaded gasoline is now $4.72 a gallon, down from $4.92.

Diesel, meanwhile, now costs $4.76 a gallon, which is down from $5.11 just a day before.

The Shell gas station along Airport Road also lowered its prices, with V-Power mirroring the 20-cent decrease for Mobil's regular unleaded gasoline to $4.41 a gallon.

Menchu Dejesus of Fina Sisu said the decrease in gas prices is definitely an early Christmas gift for her family and the community as well. She said her family of five usually spends $40 a week filling up their sports utility vehicle.

Ambet Omampo echoed Dejesus when the 43-year-old employee of Island Business Systems and Supply said the lower cost of gas prices this holiday season is truly a blessing this Christmas.

On Tinian, the Mobil gas station there said they have yet to lower their gas prices as they're still selling their old stock. Regular unleaded gasoline on the island costs $5.77 a gallon, while diesel is $6.27 a gallon.

Saipan Tribune didn't get a report of gas prices on Rota.

The Associated Press reports that the recent slide in gas prices across the nation is a result of OPEC's decision to leave its production target at 30 million barrels a day. Member nations of the cartel are worried they'll lose market share if they lower production.

MARK RABAGO
The Mobil gas station along Beach Road in Garapan displays the decreased prices of its regular and super unleaded gasoline early evening yesterday.

Rota, Guam show similar reduced seed dispersal

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The CNMI's forests and intact bird population can provide direct point of comparison for "how it should be" in Guam, where crucial seed dispersers have been devastated by the brown tree snake, according to Nadya Muchoney, who works with the Ecology of Bird Loss Project, and spoke at this year's Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education and Environmental Management conference.

Up to 80 percent of forest tree species in the Marianas have seeds that are supposed to be dispersed by birds, according to Muchoney. She said fewer than 10 percent of these trees are pollinated by birds.

Because the forest ecosystems in the Marianas rely on these frugivorous ("fruit-eating") birds as seed dispersers, their loss is important.

EBL recently analyzed seedbanks in forest gaps on Saipan, Guam, and Rota, expecting that the CNMI would compare differently but found that a "similar pattern" of reduced richness of seed dispersal was emerging on Rota, according to Muchoney.

Guam had "uneven" and "very high percentage of areas without seed dispersal," according to Muchoney, but this was expected. Rota's results were "interesting," according to Muchoney, because of its still intact avian population.

Future research could look to see if a recent decline in Rota's avian population was related to this, she said.

In particular, EBL tested three hypotheses with its seedbank analysis. Guam would have "patchy" seedbanks or more empty samples in its forest gaps compared to Saipan and Rota; Guam would have majority of its seed within 2 meters of its parent tree; and Guam would have lower species richness in its seedbanks than on Saipan and Rota.

Rota had a high level of empty samples just like Guam did, according to Muchoney, while Saipan's results were as expected.

In Guam, over 90 percent of seed species were found near a parent tree, while Rota and Saipan had a much lower percent, she said. Both Rota and Guam showed lower species richness than Saipan, according to Muchoney.

An audience member at the conference suggested Rota's forests might be in an "apex situation" to explain Rota poorer results. Muchoney said this is "something to consider."

EBL is also continuing to look at forest gap regeneration. Muchoney said they are looking if forest gaps in Guam would close more slowly than on Saipan and Rota, and if diversity in these gaps will be less or more than Saipan and Rota.

She said if gaps closed more slowly, this could because of a "feedback loop" where slower regeneration leaves gaps empty longer. This exposure might cause mychorrhizal fungi to die off so that when seeds do enter, there is less fungi to help them grow, she said.

Man who tries to intervene in dispute is stabbed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man who tried to intervene in a domestic dispute involving his neighbors was instead stabbed in the back in San Jose last month.

The suspect, Kfis Kris Pino, 38, was arrested on Sunday in Dandan for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Police said the victim, Antonio Kapileo, sustained a stab wound in the back and was placed on observation for almost 12 hours at the Commonwealth Health Center.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho increased Pino's $20,000 cash bail to $50,000 due to the suspect's prior criminal history and the seriousness of the crime. Preliminary hearing will be on Friday.

Police detective Francisco Romeo Iginoef stated in his report that a police officer and an emergency medical technician who responded to the scene saw Kapileo lying on the ground on his stomach behind Dolphin Wholesale on Nov. 11 at 2:27am. Kapileo's shirt and jeans were soaked with blood. After a few minutes, medics arrived and brought him to CHC.

Police searched for the suspect but failed to find him.

Iginoef said he and another detective talked to Kapileo at his home in San Jose the following day.

According to Kapileo's narration of events, he was fishing at the beach side near Oleai Beach Bar on Nov. 11 at 1:30am when he heard noises from across the road. Kapileo looked at the road leading to San Jose Church and saw Pino running across the road. He also saw a female standing on the road leading to the church.

Kapileo got in his car and drove to the parking lot of the nearby Downtown Market. He got down from his car and approached the female whom he identified as his neighbor and asked her if she needed help. She told Kapileo to help her mother, who is Pino's common-law wife.

As Kapileo was walking toward the female neighbor, he felt pain in his back and he realized that he had been stabbed. When he looked back, he saw Pino holding a knife.

Kapileo said he fell to the ground but managed to get up and ran toward his house. He then walked to the house of his boss and asked the latter to call an ambulance.

Ignoef said that on the same day, the common-law wife of Pino told him that prior to the incident, she and Pino had an argument because she refused to give him some money.

Pino got angry, allegedly pushed her on the chest and punched her right shoulder. She said Pino then walked away and her daughter followed him.

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Rota Resort seeks land for isotainer for fuel

Rota Resort is requesting a land-lease to secure space for an isotainer for fuel for international airplanes, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board director Benigno Sablan at a meeting last week. CPA executive director Maryann Lizama was given the go by the board to work with the resort on the lease agreement.

According to Lizama, the resort has been working with CPA's Engineering office to make sure all compliance issues are resolved. She said they would build their facility a safe distance away from the Rota Airport terminal because of the hazard of fuel. According to her, the resort wanted it closer to the terminal but CPA refused out of safety precautions.

The facility as it is now is at "a very safe distance," she said.

Lizama reported no exact amount of the lease to the board, but simply asked for permission to continue to work with the resort until the lease is finalized.

"Once everything comes into place we will bring it back to you," she told board members. Further permitting work with government agencies is expected. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK
This pickup truck is dwarfed by the huge vessel it is towing along Beach Road in Garapan yesterday. MARK RABAGO

CUSTOMS

From Page 1

container."

Mafnas said Customs officers themselves unloaded the container, already knowing that there were undeclared cargo and contraband inside and that's when they found out that the smuggled items were concealed in mislabeled boxes.

"As you can see the boxes are labeled 'vinegar' but inside it's Emperador Brandy. In the other boxes, the smaller ones they are labeled 'bay leaf,' 'turmeric," "kasuba (saffron)," and other spices but really inside are cigarettes like Marlboro and Phillip brands. The other boxes are labeled 'soy sauce' but inside there are Ginebra gin bottles," he said.

In all, Mafnas said, Customs discovered 234 cases of liquor that were not declared.

"It's not illegal, they're just not declared. After meeting with the senior officers, rather than storing this for life and waiting for the case to be resolved, we decided to just collect the taxes. If this container went through undetected, the government would lose $12,800 in taxes."

On top of the close to $13,000 in taxes Customs will impose, Mafnas said they will also assess a fine of $22,200 on the importer for bringing in the smuggled items.

"We're looking at close to $35,000. Everything that was spent by the government will be collected, even for the labor for unloading the container, we will pass that to the importer. We want to send a strong message out there that if you do plan to smuggle, when you get caught you will pay the price."

The Customs chief said they have no choice but make an example out of this latest attempt to smuggle items into the CNMI.

"These type of smugglers, we call them tax cheaters, and it really bothers me because there are legitimate distributors on island, especially for the Marlboro brand of cigarettes. Their cigarettes are slowly moving from their shelves and that's because of these types of importers that are…having an effect on legitimate businesses. I'm happy with the officers involved. It was a four-day project just to unload and do inventory."

Aside from the 234 cases of liquor, the container also included 1,180 cartons of cigarettes. Mafnas said the contraband cigarettes are tied with the Min Yang Market case reported by newspapers a week ago.

Seaport manager Capt. Greg Sablan said as a matter of policy Customs usually conducts 100 percent inspection on cargo coming from the Philippines and China.

"All those cargoes are subject to 100 percent inspection. Of the five containers you will bring in we'll inspect four and we kind of give you the fifth one as random because it's costly also to the businesses to hire people to offload them."

Customs Lt. Jessie Atalig, for his part, echoed Mafnas' warning to parties attempting to smuggle contraband items into the islands.

"It's really important because it sends a clear message to businesses that plan to smuggle cigarettes that are considered contraband and with the liquor you have legit consignees out there that sell liquor and pay the taxes. We try to send a message to people who try to smuggle these in so we can put a stop to it and collect the right taxes we need to collect for the government."

MARK RABAGO

Division of Customs director Jose C. Mafnas, right, yesterday poses with, from left, Customs Lt. Jessie Atalig, Customs officer Lani Tarope, and Customs Seaport manager Capt. Greg Sablan while the boxes of smuggled cigarettes and liquor are displayed on the table at the Customs office in Puerto Rico.

CPA's ARRF is recognized regionally

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

At the Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Palau in November, the Commonwealth Ports Authority was presented with a certificate of recognition for its support and partnership with the association, according to CPA executive director Maryann Lizama.

At the conference, Lizama said CPA presented the project status of its Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training Facility and its state-of-the-art functionality.

CPA also proposed an expansion of the ARRF curriculum, to include trainings for other personnel operating within the airport/airfield, she said.

The certification of recognition was presented at CPA's last board meeting.

The Pacific Region ARFF Training Center at Saipan International Airport was created to train all airport firefighters throughout the Micronesian Islands, according to CPA.

ARFF offers basic firefighting and basic aircraft rescue courses, as well as fire leadership, emergency medical service, and hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction response courses.

According to CPA, ARRF's facility can train up to 30 firefighters. It also has a live-fire training facility where "realistic training conditions" are created to simulate aircraft firefighting scenarios.

LEAC

From Page 1

the reduction of power bills that customers pay every month.

LEAC represents the fuel component of a bill and accounts for 70 percent of power bills. The current LEAC rate is $.25168 per kWh.

"It would be very good, of course, to lower prices for CUC, but no one can predict the impact over a year's time. As I said, though, as prices for oil continue to decline, CUC will pay less for the oil under its contract with Mobil, and that cost reduction in the price of oil will reduce the LEAC rate," Sablan said.

"Customers will see a reduction in the cost of fuel oil that they pay each month when they receive their electricity billing from CUC," he added.

The LEAC is a means to collect from CUC customers the actual "levelized" or average cost of diesel oil used to generate the electricity consumed by CUC customers in any given month.

Sablan assured that whatever amount CUC pays for the oil to produce the electricity for any month is all that CUC will collect from its customers for that month—based on the amount of kilowatt hours consumed per each household, government office or service, commercial establishment or private enterprise.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission earlier this year allowed CUC to adjust its LEAC charge every month instead of every six months to allow CUC to adjust monthly pricing based on the "Means of Platts Singapore" or MOPS' monthly pricing.

RECOUNT

From Page 1

day, Tuesday, at 1:30pm, at the Saipan Superior Court.

Naraja will hold an evidentiary hearing tomorrow, Wednesday, at 9am, also at the Saipan Superior Court.

Saipan Tribune learned that three tabulating machines were used during the recount process that started after 9am and ended about 6:30pm.

Naraja confirmed that the recount showed that San Nicolas got 705 votes, Dela Cruz received 696 and David Cing garnered 47.

This means that San Nicolas picked up two more votes after the recount.

San Nicolas of the Republican Party won by seven votes, 703-696, over Dela Cruz (Independent) during the first counting of votes that CEC has already certified.

"It's just a long process," attorney Viola Alepuyo said when asked why the recounting took many hours.

Alepuyo, on behalf of San Nicolas, said this recount will inspire confidence in the election process.

"The CEC and staff worked hard and diligently to ensure a clean and transparent election. I thank them and the people of Tinian for their vote of confidence," San Nicolas said.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Dela Cruz through his counsel but there was no reply as of press time.

Dela Cruz appeared with his counsel, Mark Hanson. San Nicolas appeared with counsel, Matthew Gregory and Alepuyo.

The entire Commonwealth Election Commission board, CEC counsel and Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty, executive director Robert A. Guerrero, and staff were present. Police officers and CNMI court marshals as well as Office of the Public Auditor staff were also present. A lot of Tinian residents also witnessed the recounting process.

In his lawsuit, Dela Cruz alleged several irregularities during the Nov. 4 election, including a discrepancy between the votes cast for Tinian mayor tabulated on Tinian and the tabulation on Saipan of the votes physically cast on Tinian for Tinian mayor. CEC denied the allegations.

Banzai Cliff, Paseo eyed as pilot for Flower Island project

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is eyeing Banzai Cliff and the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan to begin its "Flower Island" project. In an interview yesterday, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said they are assessing the application of designs on these two areas.

"We are focusing on those two sites. We know we have a buy-in from the community in increasing the beauty of the CNMI, and we want to show something before we implement everything else," Tenorio said.

MVA is working with Japanese landscape architect Junichi Inada on the project, according to Tenorio. But they are also sharing Inada's ideas with local architects or engineers to see if they are applicable to the islands, he said.

"Inada has been to the island many times and brings great ideas to the table but we want to make sure also that whatever we do will last a long time," he said.

Tenorio cited the "harsh" conditions of the Banzai Cliff area as an example. He said MVA wants to make sure that the plants recommended for the area have a chance to survive.

On the Paseo area, MVA is working with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on a design, Tenorio said. He added they were initially looking at the whole Garapan area but because there are planned improvements there, they do not want to take the chance of improving a street only to find out that they would have to take it out later.

Is there a time set for when MVA would like to be done with these projects? Tenorio said they are "working on it."

"We are assessing the application of the design to the particular area and that may take awhile," he said.

As reported earlier, the flowers Inada would use include Bougainvillea, Cordyline, hibiscus, orchids, and anthurium.

He is eyeing seven zones on island that could be used for the project. These include a "welcome zone" at the airport area, an eco-corridor at the east side, a flower corridor along the west, a paradise zone for Managaha, a flower garden zone for the island's northside memorials, and a wild flower mountain zone on Mt. Tapochau.

Mayor Tudela recognized in Congressional Records

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) recognized Saipan Mayor Marian DLG Tudela this month in the Congressional Records. Tudela was then presented a framed copy of the record last week by Sablan himself.

The Congressional Records is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the U.S Congress.

In an interview, Tudela said that when she was presented with the framed record, she didn't know how to explain the gratitude she felt for the honor Sablan bestowed on her.

"I was very surprised when he told me he was going to do this and I appreciate that he really thought about me and thank him for doing it," Tudela said.

Sablan said the Congressional Record was intended to show that Tudela is the first female mayor and the only female mayor in all municipalities of the CNMI. Tudela was sworn in on June 8, 2014.

"Mayor Tudela assumed this position by operation of law upon the untimely death of Mayor Donald G. Flores. Though residing at the time in the mainland U.S., she honorably agreed to serve her community through the remainder of his term, and returned to Saipan," Sablan stated.

He added: "With over 21 years in the private sector and over 10 years in government service, Tudela has a long and rich professional history. And this is not her first time to answer to the people directly. From 1994 to 1998 and from 2006 to 2008, Tudela was a member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. She has also served on the boards of the NMI Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Ports Authority."

GUAM NEWS

Girl dies in possible drowning at Guam beach

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Responders in Guam say an 8-year-old girl has died in a possible drowning.

Pacific Daily News reports the girl's parents notified lifeguards at Ypao Beach that their child had been missing Sunday about 30 minutes and said they last saw her playing in the water.

Lifeguard Joe Nauta says the parents are Japanese tourists. He says the parents looked for the girl for about 30 minutes before alerting authorities. People were told to stay out of the water while a search for the girl was underway.

Nauta says the girl was found submerged in the water about 15 yards from the shoreline. Responders performed CPR, but the girl remained unconscious when she was taken to Guam Memorial Hospital, where she was pronounced dead shortly after arriving.

Guam police investigate fatal hit-and-run

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam police are investigating a hit-and-run that killed three teenage pedestrians in Yigo.

Pacific Daily News reports that family members of the girls who died Saturday have identified them as 19-year-old Cherrica Gallen, 16-year-old Saly Santos and 16-year-old Julia George.

Two of the girls were pronounced dead after they were taken to Guam Memorial Hospital. The other girl died later Saturday.

Police say they are searching for someone who might have been driving a Nissan, based on car parts found at the scene. Police say they believe they have identified a suspect.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan veterans town hall meeting

The Veterans Affairs Honolulu Office will be hosting a town hall meeting for all veterans on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park's Visitor's Center Theater in Garapan, Saipan. VA Pacific Islands Health Care System Director Wayne Pfeffer and VBA Regional Office Director Tracey Betts will be hosting the town hall meeting. Contact Ruth Coleman at (670) 322-0035 at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic for additional information. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting tomorrow at World Resort

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting tomorrow, Dec. 3, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. This day also is the Chamber's annual Career Exploration Day. On the agenda to speak are several younger Chamber members who will give brief speeches about their individual paths to success. Buffet luncheon begins at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at noon. Luncheon cost for Chamber members is $20, non-members pay $30. Chamber businesses hosting students at the luncheon will be charged the member rate of $20. ***(PR)***

Brilliant Star to host Holiday Bazaar

Brilliant Star School will kick off the holiday season with the Holiday Bazaar this Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, from 9am until 4pm. The annual event showcases the arts of local artists and wares of other vendors, and allows island residents and visitors to buy unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays. Entertainment will be provided by a variety of local performers.

Parents who want to have a little personal shopping time can drop their child off in the arts and crafts area, where the children have their pick of a variety of art projects.

Shoppers have a chance to win items such as beautiful handmade jewelry, local artwork, and gift certificates from local restaurants in the hourly raffle drawings. ***(PR)***

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Judge Wiseman asks high court to deny Ogumoro's petition

» Judge says former DPS official distorts the law, contorts the facts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has filed a brief asking the CNMI Supreme Court to deny the petition of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro to restrain him from presiding over Ogumoro's pending criminal case.

In his *amicus curiae* brief filed last week, Wiseman asserted that Ogumoro "distorts the law, contorts the facts, and makes giant leaps" in the hopes that the Supreme Court will grant him extraordinary relief.

An *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") is a brief filed in court by any entity who is not a party to the case.

Wiseman said Ogumoro must convince the high court that his [Wiseman's] error is so plainly wrong that a writ of prohibition should be issued to correct the error.

The judge said Ogumoro failed to meet his burden of showing that the high court should grant the "drastic" and extraordinary remedy of issuing a writ.

Wiseman filed the brief in response to Ogumoro's recent filing of a request for a writ of prohibition. Ogumoro, through counsel Edward C. Arriola, argued that Wiseman's decision not to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction is erroneous because there is neither a rational nor a substantial legal argument to deny the CNMI Supreme Court's order.

But Wiseman argued that extraordinary relief such as the one Ogumoro seeks is a "drastic one"—to be involved only in extraordinary situations where "circumstances amounting to a judicial 'usurpation of power' will justify the invocation of this extraordinary remedy."

Wiseman said when a petitioner seeks such relief, he or she has the burden to convince the court that issuance of the writ would not lead to its unprincipled use—or that its issuance would not "operate to undermine the mutual respect generally existing between trial and appellate courts."

Wiseman said that contrary to Ogumoro's erroneous framing of the issue, the issue before the high court is not simply a matter of whether he (Wiseman) clearly erred in not recusing himself from the bench.

Rather, the judge said, the issue is whether Ogumoro satisfied his extraordinary burden that Wiseman's decision to not recuse himself was so plainly wrong as to "indicate failure to comprehend or refusal to be guided by unambiguous provisions of a statute or settled common law doctrine."

Wiseman said it appears to him that Ogumoro merely seeks to re-litigate his case in the hopes of a favorable outcome.

He said Ogumoro's "misstatements of facts and misstatements of the law" make a weak case for issuance of an extraordinary writ.

The judge asserted that Ogumoro misstates the law for the "clearly erroneous" standard and misstates the facts in a misguided effort to win his case.

Wiseman pointed out that Ogumoro's essential argument is that since Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo recused himself from the questioned-case for judging the testimony about Ogumoro in a trial that he presided over, so too should Wiseman because he reviewed and approved the affidavit in support of an arrest warrant, which detailed "highly incriminating testimony" about Ogumoro in a pre-arraignment procedure.

Wiseman said Ogumoro's premise for making his argument is that presiding over a trial and issuing a warrant of arrest is the same thing.

"There is a leap of logic here that any reasonable person should view with the upmost skepticism," the judge pointed out.

Furthermore, Wiseman said, Ogumoro attempts to mislead the high court with unsupported factual allegations regarding Govendo's decision to recuse himself from an earlier proceeding.

Wiseman cited that Ogumoro writes: "Accordingly, Judge Govendo reasonably considered whether a reasonable person might question his impartiality and rightfully recuse himself."

"This could very well be true, but how can petitioner-defendant present his allegation to this court as fact?" Wiseman asked.

Wiseman said nowhere under the Commonwealth's self-recusal statute does it say that if a judge recused himself or herself, it must have been because he or she "reasonably considered whether a reasonable person might question his [or her] impartiality."

Wiseman said if Ogumoro must contort the facts to present his case, then he fails to show that his ruling was plainly wrong.

Wiseman said when Ogumoro presents to the high court that he (Wiseman) "reasonably believed" that Ogumoro committed the accused crimes—those factual allegations are unsubstantiated accusations, at best.

In fact, he said, Ogumoro accused him of "reasonably believing" in Ogumoro's guilt no less than 12 times, and presents them as fact in his 15-page brief.

Wiseman said Ogumoro's argument that he should have recused himself because the Commonwealth does not have a grand jury system has no basis in the law of self-recusal.

In Ogumoro's petition, Arriola asserted that Wiseman's decision to take the July 18, 2013, evidentiary hearing off calendar and declare the hearing "moot" because of the stipulation of the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor violates the Supreme Court's mandate.

Arriola said the Supreme Court ordered the Superior Court "to hold a hearing regarding the OAG's disqualification."

In addition, Arriola said, the high court stayed or suspended the case against Ogumoro and other related criminal proceedings "pending the trial court's resolution of the OAG disqualification issue."

OPA charged Ogumoro with 15 criminal offenses for his role in, among other things, shielding then-attorney general Edward Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Public warned of high surf today

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6pm today, Tuesday.

According to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, fresh trade winds and combined seas of 8 to 9 feet are expected today, Tuesday. A disturbance passing by the region about Wednesday or Thursday could produce hazardous sea conditions.

Hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet along north facing shores will persist through Tuesday afternoon.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. ***(HSEM)***

HLI 18-12 OK will lead to 'adjustments' to other govt units

The electorate's approval of House Legislative Initiative 18-12 during the general election last Nov. 4 will result in other government units having to adjust their annual earmarks, according to press secretary Angel Demapan.

HLI 18-12, which increases the CNMI Public School System's 15 percent annual government appropriation by 10 percentage points, garnered 7,826 "yes" votes and 3,958 "no" votes in last month's polls.

"The administration will have to crunch the budget figures when it comes time to submit the budget proposal for the new fiscal year. Obviously, as is the case every fiscal year, any adjustment made to any business unit will result in further adjustments to other units. This will all depend on revenue projections for the next fiscal year," Demapan said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

PSS' annual government appropriation will now be increased to 25 percent because the majority of votes favored the budget increase.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that she's grateful for the vote of confidence from the electorate on H.L.I 18-12 and in believing that the CNMI should invest 25 percent of the CNMI revenue in education and for the islands' children.

"This is certainly history in the making and our work to continuously improve our school system and make it the best in the region will now move forward," she said. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Child pornographer sentenced to 60 months imprisonment

Randy Yabut Palaganas, who pleaded guilty to one count of receipt of child pornography, was sentenced by U.S. District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to 60 months in prison and five years of supervised release.

According to Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Palaganas was sentenced on Nov. 26, 2014, following his guilty plea on Nov. 13, 2013.

Palaganas admitted to utilizing a peer-to-peer network to receive about 73 movies that depicted the sexual abuse of young children.

In addition to the sentence of 60 months of incarceration and five years of supervised release, Palaganas was ordered to register with the Sex Offender Registry in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works, or attends school. He was also ordered to forfeit his computer.

Limtiaco said: "Child pornography offenses involve the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. These offenses are extremely serious because they result in perpetual harm to the child victims, and normalize the sexual exploitation of children. When the Internet is utilized to obtain these images of child sexual abuse, the images can travel to offenders domestically and internationally anywhere in the world, to include into the Pacific region. The harm to victims is lifelong. The U.S. Attorney's Office remains committed to aggressively prosecuting defendants who victimize and prey on children through any means, including by computer."

Limtiaco also reminds defendants who have committed sexual abuse of children that, under federal and local law, all sex offenders have a duty to register and keep their registration current with the Sex Offender Registry in their jurisdiction. Sex offenders who travel to Guam and who reside in Guam must inform the Guam Sex Offender Registry where they reside, work, or attend school. They must also periodically update their registration information. The U.S. Attorney notes that the Sex Offender Registry was created in order to protect the public by protecting victims, preventing further victimization and informing the public of the whereabouts of sex offenders. Guam's Sex Offender Registry can be found online at www.guamcourts.org.

Limtiaco noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Initiative, a nationwide commitment to aggressively prosecute defendants who engage in the sexual victimization of children and adults, possess or receive child pornography, and sex offenders who fail to register with the jurisdiction's Sex Offender Registry.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney R. San Nicolas. ***(USAO)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

CRM Agency Meeting
December 04, 2014, Thursday 10:00 A.M.
BECQ 2nd Floor Conference Room

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION
1) CUC EXPLORATORY GEO-THERMAL WELL DRILLING PROJECT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2014-X-054
a. Permit application/summary by DCRM
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/DCRM
c. Permit status determination (CRM Agencies/CRM)
2) WEST SAN JOSE HOMESTEAD-CRM PERMIT NO. TMS-2002-X-219
a. Permit Summary
b. Permit Discussion

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

FRANCES A. CASTRO /S/
DIRECTOR, DCRM

BRUCE L. MAILMAN #F0153
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PMB 238 PPP, BOX 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

Attorneys for Petitioner INHO YIM AKA BRIAN YIM

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of **MU NAM YIM,** Deceased. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0229

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE, AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Hearing Date: January 13, 2014
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: David Wiseman

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF MU NAM YIM, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that **INHO YIM AKA BRIAN YIM** has filed with the Clerk of this Court his Petition for Probate, and for Letters Of Administration for the Estate of **MU NAM YIM**, deceased. The hearing on the Petition is set for January 13, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Superior Court, Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

For further particulars please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Bruce L. Mailman of the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC, Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Road, Garapan, PMB 238 PPP, Box 10,000, Saipan MP 96950; telephone (670) 233-0081 and facsimile (670) 233-0090.

CREDITORS of decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

DATED: November 21, 2014

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
By: /s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

NAME: Joshua Wise and Jaymie Kanda
P.O. Box 506338
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No. 670-322-4987

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: B. S. K. Minor Child — FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0471

NOTICE OF HEARING

By: Joshua Kauhinoa Wise and Jaymie Sachiko Kanda
Petitioners

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 12/18/14, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2014.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

House resolution urges Congress to extend E-2C

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a resolution that "supports the move to respectfully request a five-year extension of the transitional period of the CNMI-Only Investor (E-2C) visa program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, with ample time for transition."

House Resolution 18-66 is authored by Rep. Anthony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) but was adopted by the committee of the whole during last week's House session.

According to HR 18-66, an "additional transition period of five years is absolutely necessary to prevent a collapse of the CNMI economy," quoting the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

It also said the extension of the E-2C visa would come in handy as the Commonwealth's tourism arrivals have increased and hotel occupancy rates reached 91 percent as of January 2013, the highest since 1997.

"The government and private sector considers that losing foreign, long-term investors will hamper the rise of our tourism-based economy in a major way; and a grant of a five-year extension would not subvert the goal of U.S. Public Law 110-229," added the resolution.

U.S. PL 110-229 is the Consolidated Natural Resources Act that gave a five-year transition period not only for long-term foreign investors in the CNMI but long-term nonresident workers as well via the CNMI workers program or CW program.

Sablan said extending the E-2C program is of the utmost importance because the CNMI currently has more than 260 such investors, which are the backbone of the islands' economy.

"I don't think anybody would deny that failure to extend that E-2C investor visa would have an economic impact on our economy. I always believed that the backbone of our economy is the small- and medium-sized businesses. These are the people who put money in their operations and hire. They do their part in paying taxes and they have a positive impact on the economy. They were told that by the end of the year they could no longer remain here. I don't want to imagine the consequences."

The former Division of Immigration director said it would only be right for Congress to extend the E-2C program like what the Department of Homeland Security did in extending the CW program.

"Basically we have a situation where we have uncertainty with regards to people doing business. The U.S. government already did the right action by extending the CW transition period. I think we need to do the same for those operating businesses here. I can't imagine the economic impact. Roughly we're looking at around 200-some. The intent here is to address and take care of a visa status situation here so they could stay here and operate a business legally."

Sablan said copies of HR 18-66 would be given to U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan), and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"What we're going to do is make a personal request to the Speaker [Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero] to prepare certified copies of the resolution so we can make them available directly to the office of Kilili and the other individuals on the list, including Congress. We want this out by tomorrow because we really don't have much time," he said.

Sablan is happy that all his colleagues in the House adopted the resolution.

"I'm glad that the members want to introduce that as a committee of the whole so it has the backing of everybody in trying to convey the urgency of the matter. We're barely a month away from the end of the year so I think it's important that we take this step and other steps to take this particular issue to the attention of the federal authorities."

Judge delays sentencing of alleged 'ice' group leader

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted a joint motion to delay the sentencing of Xing Bo Fang, a man tagged by authorities as the leader of a group of meth suppliers on Saipan.

In an order on Friday, Manglona rescheduled Fang's sentencing to Feb. 6, 2015 at 9am. Fang's sentencing was supposed to be yesterday, Dec. 2.

Manglona found good cause to postpone the sentencing based upon Fang's and the U.S. government's stipulated motion.

Fang is cooperating with the U.S. government and is willing to testify, if necessary, against the alleged second in command of a group of "ice" distributors on island.

David G. Banes, as counsel for Fang, and assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton disclosed last week that, as part of Fang's cooperation with the U.S. government, he has agreed to testify against co-defendant Yu Hua Wang.

Wang's trial has been taken off calendar due to the ongoing evaluation of his competency to stand trial. His evaluation is expected to take up to 60 days, said Banes and Naughton in a joint motion to move Fang's sentencing.

Fang has signed a plea deal with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to count one of the indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

His sentencing was originally set for July 11, 2014.

Banes and Naughton said that until Fang either testifies at trial or Wang pleads guilty or is found incompetent, the U.S. government cannot evaluate the level of Fang's cooperation, including an evaluation of if Fang qualifies for "substantial assistance" to the government.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Fang sold approximately 98.7 grams of 98.0 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to a confidential source of the Drug Enforcement Administration at the instruction of Wang on Dec. 27, 2013. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'START SMART AT NMC' CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school seniors cheer for their schools during an ice breaker event at NMC's Start Smart seminar. Hundreds of high school seniors from public and private schools attended NMC's Start Smart last week. The Start Smart seminar was made possible by the College Access Challenge Grant Program.

Commonwealth Casino Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Commonwealth Casino Commission has scheduled a meeting to be held on Friday, December 5, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., at the Governor's Office conference room, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes-November 24, 2014

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS
- a. Funding Issues
  1. Report from Secretary of Finance
  2. Selection of Banking Institution
  3. Authorized Signatories
  4. Staff needs for hire
     - A. Review and adoption of Executive Director position description
     - B. Review and adoption of Secretary/ Admin Assistant position description
- b. Office facility, furnishings/fixtures, equipment & supply needs
- c. Commissioner's Training

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Bylaws
- b. Rules & Regulations
- c. Adoption of CNMI Procurement Regulations
- d. Adoption of CNMI Excepted Service Personnel Regulations

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: NOS.: (670) 664-3300 – 3304 FAX: (670) 664-3310
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that an **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **December 11, 2014, (Thursday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, at the **Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan.**

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
- A) Call to order
- B) Roll Call
- C) Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
- A) Review/Adoption of Agenda
- B) Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2014

III. New Business
- A) Board Reorganization
- B) Courtesy Resignation Chief of Parole
- C) Adoption of Proposed Board of Parole Rules and Regulations

IV. Old Business
- A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
- B) Board's Drug Testing Policy

V. Miscellaneous
- A) Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman
Date: 11/17/14

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Parole Hearing is scheduled for December 10, 2014, (Wednesday) beginning at 9:00 A.M., and if needed be to continue on December 11, 2014 (Thursday) at 8:30 A.M. at the Vicente Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Training and Briefing Room, Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda

III. Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Alvin P. Lizama	14-001	11-0213T
2. Donald C. Arriola	14-005	12-0193T
3. Jesse James Camacho	13-011	98-175

IV. Re-Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Manuel K. Pangelinan	88-0265	14-RA-003

V. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman
Date: 11/26/2014

CPA holds off on hiring a chief electrician

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has for now deferred action the hiring of a full-time chief electrician. The new position, according to CPA executive director Maryann Lizama, is a "much more detailed job" than the general electricians CPA currently has, and would specifically deal with things like airport runways.

Board member Barrie Toves objected to the motion to defer action on this personnel matter.

"I am having a hard time seeing the logic why we're going to defer action on this one when we created the position under the fiscal year 2015 budget. It was argued that it was a necessary position," he said.

He said in the absence of any directive coming from the Inos administration, CPA should proceed with this particular position for now.

For any other new position that is going to come forth, he said, CPA would deal with that when the directive comes out, but in this case "we are counting the chicken when the egg is not even laid."

Board member Benigno Sablan asked executive director Lizama if it was correct that she met with Gov. Eloy S. Inos who spoke of "not doing anything at this point in time until perhaps the swearing in ceremony." Lizama said that was correct.

Sablan asked board chair Joe Lifoifoi to defer action until they get a "better reading" from the Inos administration.

"At this point in time, Mr. Chairman, coming from the governor's instruction—not necessarily in black and white yet—but we need to adhere to it now so that we don't fall into a ditch now or the next day," he said.

Sablan said he understood where Toves was coming from.

"It is a transitional period, a new government is coming in January, I think we should hold for now until such time we get a better reading from the administration," he said.

Toves was the sole "nay" vote when the board approved the motion.

Binding agreements up for review for Tinian and Rota harbors assessment

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will review and comment on the "technicalities" of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' assessment and modification studies for both Tinian and Rota harbors.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama shared an 81-page draft of the project with the board in their meeting last week. In an interview, she said the CPA needs its "technical and legal eyes" to review the agreements stipulated within the project because these agreements would "bind us financially as well."

Lizama presented three agreements up for review. For the Tinian Harbor assessment, the U.S. Department of Defense has put in their interest in what they wanted in the project, according to Lizama. Review and comments would be on this "added scope" that addresses DOD interests.

The other two agreements up for review and comment are for both the Tinian and Rota modification studies' draft project management plans and feasibility cost sharing agreements.

While the Army Corps provides technical assistance, cost-share assistance and waivers in place to help CPA with the project, Lizama said that funding would need to be found down the line.

"There is going to be another binding agreement that basically says if we do this we have to be prepared to have the funding to complete the project. That is why we need further review with our CM and legal counsel," she said.

Will there be enough funding in place? "It depends on how much," Lizama said, indicating that projects costs have not been established yet.

As reported earlier, these projects are estimated to cost around $3 million, split between federal and local funds. CNMI's Rota share would cost $989,000, and the local cost of the Tinian project would be at $891,500 in line with changes Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan included in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act this year.

Rota harbor's breakwater would be included in the Army Corps designs as well as Tinian, according to board director Ben Sablan at the meeting. Right now there is no breakwater for Tinian, according to Sablan, just "dilapidated metal."

He said USACE designs would not use metal because "they degenerate and deteriorate for the next five to 20 years."

"We want to have a breakwater that will last almost a lifetime," he said.

3D PROCLAMATION MARK RABAGO
Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, seated center, led the proclamation signing designating November as Drunk, Drugged Driving Awareness Month last Nov. 25 at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill. They were joined by several members of Saipan's law enforcement agencies.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 2, 2009

Shirley's Saipan mourns passing of chain's founder
Shirley's Coffee Shop Saipan is mourning the loss of Shirley Lai, founder of the popular diner, who passed away on Nov. 28 in Guam at the age of 78. Susan Macario, general manager of Shirley's Coffee Shop outlets on Saipan, was deeply saddened by the death of Mama Shirley, as Lai is affectionately called. "Shirley's Coffee Shop grew a little dim as word spread that its pillar and inspiration, Shirley Lai, breathed her last. The death of Lai came as an unwanted surprise to all," she said. Macario shared that she and her crew have always looked up to Lai for the standards she had set in providing clients with exemplary customer service.

Four NMC students awarded $8,800 scholarships
Four Northern Marianas College students joined five students in Guam who successfully got the First Hawaiian Bank Guam Business Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship award for this year. Ashley G. Sikayun, Frances T. Santos-Hofschneider, Ann Julia Padilla, and Roxanne A. Ferrer received yesterday the financial aid of $2,200 each from officials and representatives of the two companies. The scholarship, which is open to both full-time and part-time students, is awarded based on merit, eligibility, a written essay, financial need, and a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

December 2, 2012

Burglary at Dandan residence
NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident on a residence located in Dandan village. On Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, at about 3:40pm, the victim, a local female discovered the crime when she returned home from work. The victim and her husband (a local male) left work earlier that morning. The husband was the last one to leave the house at about 8:35am that morning. The items stolen include Three Kawasaki Models TD43 Bush Cutters, one Sony Vaio laptop computer, one Acer laptop computer, one Toshiba 32" flat screen TV, and one Auvio 42" flat screen TV. The total value of the stolen items are estimated at over $3,000.

CNMI not buying $80M ice-breaking ferry
An $80-million unused ice-breaking ferry from Alaska won't find its way in the CNMI after the Fitial administration said during the weekend it informed the vessel owner that the Commonwealth is "not interested in this matter" because of the need for "thorough" and "complete" review, days after U.S. media outlets carried a story that the ferry may finally get a job in the tropics.The CNMI community has known about the Fitial administration's "several weeks" of communication with the owners of the vessel only from reports carried by mainland newspapers.

December 2, 2007

2 brothers face separate sexual abuse cases
The Attorney General's Office has filed sexual abuse charges against a man whose brother is also facing sexual abuse charges. The AGO charged Francisco Kalen Borja, 28, with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. Borja, of Kagman, was summoned to appear and answer the charges in the Superior Court on Dec. 17 at 9am. According to the AGO, on Jan. 2, 2006, the defendant engaged in sexual contact with a minor girl. No other details were given. Francisco Borja's brother, Alex K. Borja, is also facing charges of sexually abusing a minor girl in 2005.

CUC employee gets probation for theft
A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee accused of stealing over $1,000 cash intended for payment of a company's power billing has entered a guilty plea. Manuel Quitano Camacho pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo accepted Camacho's plea and sentenced him to 60 days in prison, all suspended except for the eight hours that the defendant had already served. Govendo placed the defendant on 18 months of probation and required him to pay a $500 fine, $25 in court assessment fee plus probation fee. The judge said Camacho should perform 100 hours of community work service and write a letter of apology to CUC and Charles Cepeda. Camacho was charged with theft by deception and misconduct in public office. He entered a plea agreement with the government.

Person missing off Guam beach

TARAGUE BEACH, Guam—Responders from multiple agencies are searching for a missing person off the northern coast of Guam.

During the early morning of Dec. 1, 2014, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report from Andersen Air Force Base's Fire Dispatch regarding a missing active duty Air Force member that possibly entered the water in the vicinity of Tarague Beach, Guam.

Sector Guam is coordinating search efforts for multiple resources to include: jet skis, swimmers, a helicopter and small boats from Andersen Air Force Base Fire Rescue, Guam Police Department Marine Unit, U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Guam Fire Rescue, Guam Police Department Marine Unit, Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor and Coast Guard cutter *Washington*.

No further information is known at this time. ***(USCG)***

WINNERS' LIST

Marianas Baptist Academy winners in the NSDA and NJSDA Tournament held last Nov. 22, 2014, at Mount Carmel School:

NSDA

1st Place, IMP A: Yong Koo Kim
1st Place, COM: Yong Koo Kim
1st Place, IX: Yong Koo Kim
1st Place, DI B: Rachel Palijo
2nd Place, LD: Sonia Kim
2nd Place, ST: Rachel Palijo
2nd Place, OO A: Jessica Choi
2nd Place, DI B: Emily An
3rd Place, IMP B: Sonia Kim
3rd Place, DI A: Kim Beom Song
3rd Place, OO B: Shizuka Takayama
4th Place, USX: Won Jun Kim
4th Place, PR MA, Rachel Palijo
4th Place, IMP B: Ki Beom Song
4th Place, PO MB, Won Jun Kim
4th Place , OO A: Katrina Reyes
5th Place, PR MA: Katrina Reyes
5th Place, PO MB: Sonia Kim
5th Place, OO B: Amy Sim
5th Place, IMP A: Amy Sim
5th Place, IMP B: Shizuka Takayama

NJSDA:

1st Place, PO MA: Ian Cataluna
1st Place, HI A: Kristina Crisostomo
1st Place, PR MC: Seongbeom Song
2nd Place, DI A: Kristina Crisostomo
2nd Place, PO MD: Kristina Crisostomo
2nd Place, HI B: Won Kwan Kim
2nd Place, PO MC: Seongbeom Song
3rd Place, PO MC: Joshua Alfred
3rd Place, PO MB: Minju Kang
3rd Place, DI A: Won Kwan Kim
3rd Place, HI B: Minju Kang
3rd Place, LD: Ian Cataluna
3rd Place, PO MD: Stephen Bartolo
3rd Place, IMP B: Seongbeom Song
4th Place , LD: Won Kwan Kim
4th Place, PR MC: Tina Choi
5th Place, IMP A: Esther Huh
5th Place, PR MB: Esther Huh
Coaches: Ellen Alejo and Gospel Trinidad

Marianas Baptist Academy students also did well at the CNMI MathCourt held on Nov. 15, 2014, at Hopwood Junior High School.

7TH GRADE

1st Place, Ki Chang Jeoung
3rd Place, Seongbeom Song

8TH GRADE

1st Place, Chaeho Woo
1st Place, Minju Kang
2nd Place, Won Kwan Kim
3rd Place, Ian Cataluna

9TH GRADE

4th Place, Hyun Jun Chung

10TH GRADE

2nd Place, Da Hwan Rhyoo
4th Place, Won Jun Kim

11TH GRADE

3rd Place, Kyle Chua

12TH GRADE

1st Place, Won Woo Choi
3rd Place, Jae Hyun Lee
4th Place, Alina Yoon
4th Place, Sonia Kim
Coaches: Tony Flores, Pastor Ramir Trinidad

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications

1. Primary responsibility is to promote the company's resort development in Saipan and the company's future businesses in the respective industry;
2. In charge of corporate communications, public relations, reputation management, event management of the Group and executive profiling for the executive management team;
3. Support human resources department to define Group value to assist in future hiring;
4. Responsible for government and community communications programs to establish the Group as the employer of choice in countries where the company operates;
5. Responsible for providing strategic advice on marketing and program planning of the Group;
6. Responsible for strategizing and negotiating with major travel partners, including airlines and travel agencies;
7. Responsible for forming partnerships with television networks, talent management companies and entertainment companies to promote the properties of the Group;
8. Responsible for organizing and monitoring the execution of annual promotion and marketing budget plan;
9. Responsible for collaborating with the executive management team and defining future development strategy;
10. Responsible for working with various management teams and the Board of Directors of the Company to meet development objectives and visions of the Group; and participating in senior management meeting and Board meetings.

Minimum Job Requirements

1. 15 years of experience in corporate communications, reputation management, public relations, marketing, branding and advertising, event operation and property marketing.
2. Master's degree in marketing or communications.
3. Experience in advising corporate executives on workforce strategy and implementation.

Vice President of Talent Management and Development

1. Primary responsibility is to oversee, develop and implement a workforce strategy and plan to support the development of the organization and its objective of operating gaming facilities, integrated resorts and high end hotels in Saipan, CNMI.
2. Responsible for advising corporate executives on the company's business objectives in relation to workforce strategy and development.
3. Responsible for the selection, recruitment, training and development of company employees.
4. Responsible for employee benefits, compensation and management of human resources operations.
5. Responsible for employee performance management and performance review.
6. Responsible for developing and implementing management strategies and programs which are tailored to the company's objectives in the gaming industry and hospitality industry.
7. Responsible for designing and developing the company's organizational culture.
8. Prepare workforce management budgets and monitor expenditures.

Minimum Job Requirements

1. 15 years of experience in accommodation management, financial management and workforce management.
2. 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry including hotels, spas, private clubs, golf clubs, service apartments and restaurants.
3. 15 years of experience in the Hospitality industry holding a top management position.
4. 15 years of experience in advising corporate executives on workforce strategy and implementation.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Good salary package and benefits. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (2)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and/or Finance from an accredited college or university with minimum of 3 years work experience in supervisory level, supervising at least 2 associates. CPA board passer and with experience in Property & Casualty Insurance accounting operations is an advantage. Knowledgeable in SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Background in General Insurance Information System (GENIISYS) is a plus. Proficient in analyzing financial statements and must have knowledge in external regulatory reporting requirements. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge in Excel is a must.

Branch Manager
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Underwriting and Claims Supervisor
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communication skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software GENIISYS. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company (Saipan), Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 15, 2014.

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Engaging Iran is the best course for all parties

The decision early last week of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany and negotiating partner Iran to extend the Nov. 24 negotiations deadline was preferable to letting them expire. The talks can now continue until June 30.

At the same time, putting off a decision was second-best to reaching a final agreement on the subject. The risk now is that prolonging the negotiations will turn into a more permanent postponement of the conclusion of an accord.

All parties at the table have something to gain from an agreement. On the United Nations side, which is acting, in effect, for the whole world, there is the bridling and strict monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency of Iran's nuclear program, including present and future capacity to build nuclear weapons. Iran has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; the only countries believed to have nuclear weapons that have not signed it are India, Israel and Pakistan.

The United States also should gain from the lightening and eventual removal of economic sanctions against Iran as American companies and financial institutions will be able to resume what was a profitable economic and commercial relationship with Iran before the ayatollahs took power in 1979. There are plenty of American businesses and financiers waiting for the Iranian market to reopen to them. Iran is probably the only remaining untapped market awaiting attention. North Korea and Cuba don't offer anything like the opportunities of Iran, with a population of 77 million and resources.

On the Iranian side, the reduction and elimination of economic sanctions against it would make a major difference to the state of its economy. The Iranians have had some success in working around the sanctions, but the measures have definitely weakened their overall economic position in world markets. Reconciliation with Shiite Muslim Iran also would provide the United States a new ally in its conflict with Sunni al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

This latest step needs to be seen as a timeout, not an end to the drive to achieve a lasting, beneficial agreement.

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How to keep future cold wars cold: Mind the missiles

By GREGORY D. KOBLENTZ
Los Angeles Times

Gregory D. Koblentz is an associate professor in the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs at George Mason University and author of the Council on Foreign Relations report, Strengthening Strategic Stability in the Second Nuclear Age. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

At a time when we are reflecting on the lessons from the Cold War amid growing concern about the current U.S.-Russia relationship, we should be looking ahead to anticipate how changes in technology and geopolitics create new challenges to peace and stability among the world's major powers.

The Cold War stayed cold in good measure because the United States and the Soviet Union possessed nuclear weapons that raised the risk of an armed conflict between them to an unacceptable level. The destructiveness of nuclear weapons and the lack of effective defenses against them contributed to the strategic stability between the superpowers. Neither side had an incentive to strike first, and this calculation was unaffected by external shocks, false alarms or marginal shifts in the balance of power.

Since the end of the Cold War, three challenges to strategic stability have emerged. The first is the increasing complexity of deterrence relations among the nuclear weapon states. Whereas the first nuclear age was shaped by the bipolar global ideological and military competition between the United States and Soviet Union, the second nuclear age has been marked by the emergence of a multipolar nuclear order composed of states linked by varying levels of cooperation and conflict. Rising nuclear powers such as China, India and Pakistan are not party to the web of treaties, regimes and relationships that girded strategic stability between the United States and Soviet Union (and now Russia).

Moreover, most nuclear weapon states face security threats from more than one source, which breeds a "security trilemma," when actions taken by a state to defend itself against one state have the effect of making a third state feel insecure. As a result, changes in one state's nuclear posture can have a cascading effect on the other nuclear-armed states. The trilemma helps explain Russian and Chinese reactions to American missile defenses aimed at Iran and North Korea.

The second challenge is the emergence of a suite of advanced nonnuclear military technologies that have the potential to replicate, offset or mitigate the strategic effects of nuclear weapons. Missile defenses and long-range precision weapons, for example, reduce strategic stability by endangering the ability of nuclear-armed states to credibly threaten retaliation following a surprise attack. Antisatellite weapons and cyberweapons pose threats to the integrity of early-warning and command-and-control systems.

The potential for rapid advances in these technologies will make it more difficult for states to accurately assess others' capabilities, which may foster worst-case analyses and arms races. This dynamic reinforces the "zero-sum" mentality that feeds the security trilemma.

The third challenge is found in South Asia, which is the region most at risk of a breakdown in strategic stability. India and Pakistan face more severe security challenges than those of the other nuclear weapon states because of their geographic proximity, history of conflict, higher levels of domestic instability, the dispute over Kashmir and the threat of cross-border terrorism.

The two countries have been engaged in a nuclear and missile arms race since 1998 that shows no signs of abating. Pakistani development of short-range nuclear-armed missiles and India's pending deployment of sea-based nuclear weapons raise further concerns about command and control and the heightened vulnerability of these weapons to accidents and terrorism.

Furthermore, because of the security trilemma, the deterrence relationship between India and Pakistan is intertwined with that of China. This trilateral linkage increases the region's susceptibility to outside shocks and amplifies the risk that regional developments will have far-reaching effects.

Each of these dynamics is worrisome on its own, but the combination of them could be particularly destabilizing. The United States should proactively shape the second nuclear age before it finds itself trapped in a new nuclear order that is less stable, less predictable and less susceptible to American influence.

Working in concert with the other established nuclear weapon states, the U.S. should promote transparency and confidence-building measures to mitigate the destabilizing influences of advanced nonnuclear military technologies, encourage strategic dialogue among China, India and Pakistan, build capacity in India and Pakistan to engage in such dialogue, and establish a multilateral forum that includes India and Pakistan in discussions among the established nuclear weapon states on issues affecting strategic stability.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

War changes lives on both sides

By CHRIS GIBBONS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

My father's booming voice filled the living room. "That wasn't right," he yelled at the TV. "You can't do that to people!"

It was the early 1980s, and Dad was watching a news program that showed an infamous incident from the Vietnam War.

The video is chilling. A Viet Cong prisoner stands along a roadside, his hands tied behind his back. A South Vietnamese officer positions himself next to the prisoner, raises his pistol, and fires a point-blank shot into the man's head. His lifeless body crumples to the ground.

Dad cursed again. "That wasn't right," he shouted. His hands were trembling.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the awarding of a Pulitzer Prize for the photo of South Vietnamese Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing Viet Cong officer Nguyen Van Lem. Associated Press photographer Eddie Adams and an NBC cameraman filmed the execution. Adams' still picture appeared on the front pages of newspapers and evening news telecasts across the nation, outraging the public.

Adams came to regret the damage that the photograph did to Loan. The Viet Cong prisoner who was shot was reportedly part of a "death squad" that targeted the families of South Vietnamese policemen. According to witnesses, the prisoner was captured near a ditch where 34 bound and shot bodies of policemen and their families were found.

Adams later said, "I killed the general with my camera. Still photographs are the most powerful weapons in the world. People believe them; but photographs do lie, even without manipulation. They are only half-truths. ... What the photograph didn't say was, 'What would you do if you were the general at that time?'" Adams later apologized to Loan and his family.

Loan eventually escaped Vietnam, and opened a pizza restaurant in northern Virginia. Unfortunately, he couldn't escape his past. Word got out about who he was, and he had to close the restaurant because of the negative publicity. He died of cancer in 1998, leaving a wife and five children. Adams sent flowers and a note saying, "I'm sorry. There are tears in my eyes."

As for Dad's reaction that day, I assumed that, as for so many Americans then, that execution in Saigon was the final straw. Seeing the video was a reminder of the bitterness and anger that the conflict generated.

Many years later, I found out there was more to Dad's outburst.

We had a quiet moment alone in 2008 on the 55th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, and I asked him if he could tell me of his worst experience during that war. He said it would be too difficult to describe the worst, but there was one incident that continued to haunt him.

Shortly after his company had set up a defensive perimeter around their base in South Korea, two frightened and dirty Chinese prisoners were brought before a company sergeant. This sergeant was a World War II veteran, someone my father and the other young soldiers in his company looked up to. "We were very young, and often scared," Dad told me. "But he helped us get through some of the toughest times during the war."

The sergeant needed to understand how the two Chinese soldiers had gotten through the U.S. lines, so he could strengthen the perimeter. If they escaped and revealed the weakness to the enemy, the lives of his men could be at risk.

"Ask them how they got through!" he barked to the interpreter. The prisoners replied that they didn't "get through," but were separated from their outfit, and simply hid in covered foxholes when the Americans moved into the area. The American soldiers unknowingly piled the dirt and barbed wire right on top of them, and the prisoners simply climbed out later and surrendered.

"I don't believe them. Ask them again!" the sergeant shouted as he raised his rifle and pointed it at one prisoner's head. My father believed the prisoners and he was shaken by the scenario being played out in front of him and his fellow soldiers. Again, the frightened prisoners told the same story.

The sharp sounds of gunshots echoed across the Korean sky, and two lifeless bodies crumpled to the ground.

"It wasn't right," my Dad said softly, as he remembered the incident and vacantly stared ahead. I noticed that his hands were slightly trembling.

I first wrote this story down in 2008, and sent a copy to Dad to ensure that my facts were correct. After reading it, he immediately called me and told me that he didn't want it published. One of the soldiers who witnessed the incident in Korea with him was severely traumatized by it. "He was never the same again, he had a lot of issues from it," Dad said. He told me that even after they returned home, his friend continued to struggle and the remainder of his life was difficult. Dad worried that his friend would be upset if he saw the story in the newspaper.

Dad passed away earlier this year. Before he died, I asked him if I could ever publish the story. He didn't mention his friend this time, possibly because the man had passed away. Dad simply said, "When I'm long gone." That's when it finally occurred to me that there were actually two soldiers who witnessed that execution in Korea who were never the same again.

Looking at prospects for 2016 presidential race through Lichtman's 'Keys'

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb's decision to become the first of an expected dozen or more candidates forming presidential exploratory committees provides a good excuse to start considering 2016.

And why not? In political terms, 2014 is so ... yesterday, and the potential 2016 scenarios are endless.

So let's take a first look at Professor Allan Lichtman's "Keys to the Presidency," the guidelines that, for more than 20 years, have provided the best long-range predictor of presidential elections, ever since they forecast a year ahead that the first President George Bush would be defeated.

In fact, the American University professor says, his keys have correctly forecast every presidential race since 1860. That includes its 2000 forecast that Democrat Al Gore would beat Republican George W. Bush; the keys predict the popular vote, which Gore won, not the electoral vote, which elected Bush, he says.

Lichtman's system involves answering true or false to 13 statements.

If eight or more of the 13 are true, the incumbent party retains the presidency. If at least six are false, it loses.

With the GOP's gain of House seats in the midterm election (Key No. 1), most keys are now either fixed or clearly trending one way. But the ultimate result remains in doubt: Republicans are two short of the six "false" keys needed to beat the incumbent party, and the Democrats are unsure of the eight that would ensure them another term in the White House.

Here is where they stand:

Key 1: Incumbent party gained House seats in midterm election. Nope. Democrats lost 11 seats. False.

Key 2: No serious fight for the incumbent party's nomination. No clear challenger to Hillary Clinton has emerged. True for now.

Key 3: Incumbent president running. The two-term limit precludes that. False.

Key 4: No significant third-party candidate. Independent candidacies generally emerge later in the electoral cycle. True for now.

Key 5: No recession during the election year. That's the current forecast. True for now.

Key 6: Greater or equal economic growth during the current term than in the two previous terms. The Great Recession spanning Bush's second and Obama's first terms should make this one true. Likely True.

Key 7: Incumbent administration effects major changes in national policy. Obama did that by enacting Obamacare in his first term, but second-term efforts to enact significant changes, such as comprehensive immigration reform, remain stalled. Likely False.

Key 8: No major domestic social unrest. True.

Key 9: No major scandal. This one is somewhat open to debate. Republicans would cite the problems with the IRS, the bungled security that led to the death of four Americans at Benghazi, and the problems of the Veterans Administration. But, so far, nothing rises to the Watergate or Teapot Dome level. True.

Key 10: No major foreign policy or defense disaster. Parts of the world are a mess, but not primarily because of an administration initiative such as the 2003 invasion of Iraq. True for now.

Key 11: The incumbent administration achieves a major foreign policy or defense success. A pact preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons might qualify if it comes to pass. Likely false.

Key 12: Incumbent party's presidential candidate is charismatic. Lichtman says he's never considered Hillary Clinton charismatic, making the key false. But a case can be made that she would be considered charismatic merely by becoming as the first woman nominated by a major party. In doubt.

Key 13: Challenging candidate is not charismatic. Again, it's too early to know for sure, but looking at the prospective GOP field, the odds favor this one coming true. Likely true.

In summary, the present count has eight keys answered as true or likely true, one in doubt and four false or likely false, two fewer than needed to indicate a Republican victory.

Lichtman says he's not ready to make a definitive forecast, noting "one of the beauties of the keys is that some keys are open to reasoned debate."

The false total could reach the decisive six by if two of these five things happen: a major Democratic primary fight; a significant third-party candidate emerges; a major Obama scandal; a major Obama administration foreign policy disaster; or Democrats' nomination of a non-charismatic candidate.

House Republicans hope their hearings on Benghazi will elevate that tragedy into a major scandal. But the GOP's best hopes might be a Democratic presidential nomination fight or the nomination of a non-charismatic Democratic candidate.

In other words, a Democratic primary fight that Clinton loses could signal a Republican victory in 2016. Stay tuned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Three-foot tickets

Gov. Eloy Inos signed Rep. Ralph Demapan's three-foot bill over a year ago and many drivers already forgot it or choose to ignore it. The law states that motorists must keep at least three feet away from bicyclists they pass. It was designed to make the CNMI a safe place to ride, and encourage more biking for transportation and recreation. With the CNMI's rapidly increasing health problems related to too little exercise, cycling safety needs to be enforced to encourage more riding and to promote the CNMI as a safe place to both ride and visit. *Islands* magazine recently rated Saipan as one of the top three islands in the world for sports, and enforcement of that Three-Foot Law would also help that standing.

While there is a lot done to stop drunk driving and enforce seatbelt use with traffic stops, billboards, and radio ads, little action is taken to enforce the Three-Foot Law and promote cycling safety other than a few small "Share The Road" signs in the same location. One suggestion is more bike safety signs and billboards around the island similar to what we have for drunk driving and "Click It or Ticket" that clearly indicate the minimum three-foot distance law. Another is for DPS to follow bikers from a distance, ideally with cameras and unmarked cars, and ticket motorists that don't comply with the three-foot distance. This would be easier to observe and enforce than seatbelts, and it's a lot more needed as the probability of serious injury or death from a car hitting a biker at any speed is very high as we've already seen. Following any biker for any amount of time could easily result in numerous tickets as so few drivers follow or even know about this law. This is evident by the frequent middle finger return I get when I hold up three fingers to remind drivers passing less than three feet away, and those that are questioned about it. In addition to increasing awareness of the law, ticketing those that don't obey it would increase the government's budget for additional enforcement efforts. This Three-Foot Law should also be a test question for new licenses and made clear to all visitors renting cars.

With the annual around the island Hell of the Marianas bike race this Saturday, now is the time to be extra vigilant and considerate of bikers and the law. Also during that Dec. 6 race, animal owners along the race route are asked to please keep them tied up. Thanks!

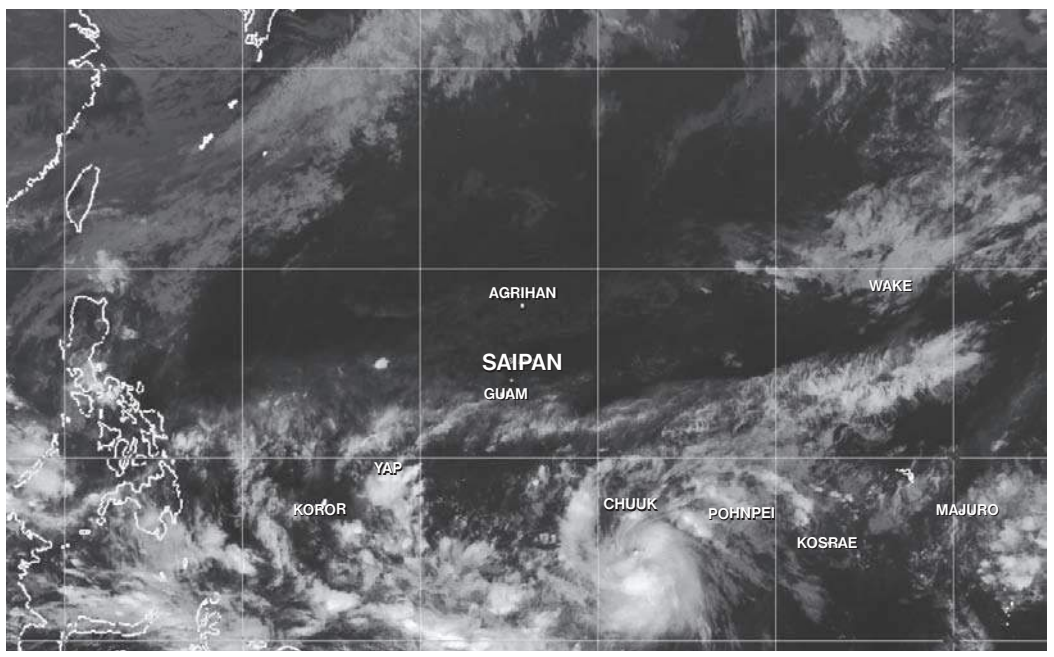
Paul Plunkett
Dandan, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly formed tropical depression 22W is centered 255 miles south- southeast of Chuuk at 4N153E moving west-northwest at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present just south of Chuuk lagoon between 1N and 7N from 150E to 157E. For more information on tropical depression 22W see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 2N130E to tropical depression 22W.Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen just southeast of Yap and Koror or south of a line from 2N130E to 10N140E to 2N150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Kwajalein within 125 miles of a line from 16N171E to 9N154E south of Wake Island within 135 miles of a line from 9N161E to 7N172E and over the Marshall Islands between 2N and 9N from 172E to 180. A shear line runs west-southwestward from 24N180 over Wake Island at 19N167E then over the Northern Marianas near Anatahan at 16N146E to finally end at 11N132E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this feature. Isolated thunderstorms are present along the shear line between 155E and 165E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲67	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲37	▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲61	▼58
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼71
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼33
Rome	Thundershowers	▲65	▼54
Salem	Showers	▲39	▼34
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼44
Tokyo	Sunny	▲55	▼40
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼38

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
3:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:25 PM	2:10 AM
Wednesday	3:11 PM	3:06 AM
Thursday	3:59 PM	4:02 AM
Friday	4:49 PM	4:58 AM
Saturday	5:40 PM	5:54 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Cyber Monday gears up to get online shoppers hyped

NEW YORK (AP)—After a busy holiday weekend in shopping malls, millions of Americans are expected to log on and keep shopping on the day dubbed Cyber Monday.

That day, the Monday after Thanksgiving, has been the biggest online shopping day of the year since 2010. The day could take on added importance after a Thanksgiving weekend that saw fewer shoppers and lower spending than last year, according to some estimates.

Retailers have been pushing deals all month and particularly the past week, hoping to spur customers to spend. That may have taken away some spending from Thanksgiving weekend.

Research firm comScore expects people to spend about $2.5 billion on Cyber Monday.

■■■

NEW YORK (AP)—Black Friday fatigue is setting in.

Early discounting, more online shopping and a mixed economy meant fewer people shopped over Thanksgiving weekend, the National Retail Federation said Sunday.

Overall, 133.7 million people shopped in stores and online over the four-day weekend, down 5.2 percent from last year, according to a survey of 4,631 people conducted by Prosper Insights & Analytics for the trade group.

Total spending for the weekend is expected to fall 11 percent to $50.9 billion from an estimated $57.4 billion last year, the trade group estimated.

AP
In this Dec. 2, 2013, file photo, Amazon.com employees work the shelves along the miles of aisles at an Amazon.com Fulfillment Center on "Cyber Monday", the Monday after Thanksgiving and the busiest online shopping day of the holiday season, in Phoenix.

■■■

There's reason to think a lot of dollars are migrating online.

PayPal said its global mobile payment volume jumped 47 percent on Thanksgiving Day compared with last year. Wal-Mart said it had more than 500 million page views on Thanksgiving, and eBay says it sold 2,000 iPad Air 2 tablets for $399 at a rate of one a second.

Amazon has been offering special deals since Nov. 21, adding new discounts as often as every 10 minutes for eight days straight. Deals include up to 45 percent off some Samsung TVs and 28 percent off Beats by Dre headphones, selling for $275.

Wal-Mart said it has doubled its Cyber Week deals to 500 compared with last year, including up to half off some TVs, tablets and toys with free-shipping offers.

Toys R Us is offering online deals for 11 days that began the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and also has free-shipping offers. Cyberdeals include $15 off Disney "Frozen" Princess dolls that are regularly $50 and $20 off a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Battroborg Electronic Battle Game that is usually $80.

The name "Cyber Monday" was coined in 2005 by the National Retail Federation's online arm, Shop.org, to encourage people to shop online. After retailers revved up deals for the day, it became the busiest online shopping day in 2010. The name was also a nod to online shopping being done at work, where faster connections made it easier to browse, less of a factor now.

Cyber Monday comes after a weekend that saw 5.3 percent fewer shoppers and 11 percent less spending, according to estimates by the National Retail Federation.

"Online is nowhere near its maturity, so Cyber Monday should be big, with a lot of strength in the days leading up to it," Forester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said. "More consumers are spending more shopping dollars online."

Congress crams unfinished agenda into final days

WASHINGTON (AP)—Like a student who waited until the night before a deadline, lawmakers resuming work Monday will try to cram two years of leftover business into two weeks, while also seeking to avoid a government shutdown.

Their to-do list includes keeping the government running into the new year, renewing expired tax breaks for individuals and businesses and approving a defense policy measure that has passed for more than 50 years in a row.

Also pending are President Barack Obama's requests for money to combat Islamic State militants, battle Ebola and deal with the influx of unaccompanied Central American children who have crossed into the U.S.

Among the lower-profile items on the agenda are renewing the government's terrorism risk insurance program and extending the ban on state and federal taxes on access to the Internet.

That's a lot to get done before the current Congress adjourns in mid-December. The new Congress, with Republicans in charge of both the House and Senate, will be seated the week of Jan. 5.

Obama's move to protect millions of immigrants from deportation proceedings and make them eligible for work permits appears to have made it more difficult to navigate the must-do items through a Capitol where cooperation already was in short supply.

The No. 1 item is preventing a government closure when a temporary funding measure expires Dec. 11. The House and Senate Appropriations committees are negotiating a $1 trillion-plus spending bill for the budget year that began Oct. 1 and are promising to have it ready by the week of Dec. 8.

The tax-writing committees are trying to renew a bundle of expired tax breaks such as the deduction for state and local sales taxes and the research and experimentation credit. Some, like tax credits for renewable energy projects such as wind farms, are a hard sell for GOP conservatives, but eagerly sought by Midwestern Republicans such as Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa.

The House has passed legislation that would make several of the tax breaks permanent; the Senate's approach has been to extend them only for 2014 and 2015. Negotiators appeared to near an agreement last week only to have the White House put it on ice with a veto threat. The administration said an emerging plan by House Republicans and top Senate Democrats was tilted too far in favor of businesses.

The president's authority to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels to fight Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria expires Dec. 11. Lawmakers probably will renew it while postponing action until 2015 on a broader, new authorization to use military force.

Obama also is requesting more than $5 billion to pay for sending additional noncombat troops and munitions to Iraq and cover other military and intelligence costs associated with fighting the militants. He wants $6.2 billion to tackle Ebola at its source in West Africa and to secure the U.S. against any possible outbreak. Also pending is a $3.7 billion request to address the immigrant children.

Office feud leaves both parties tainted

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

QUESTION: For a long time, one of my co-workers was very rude and snippy to me. Our new manager recently decided that we should be separated, so she transferred both of us to other branches. My office is now located an hour from home, which is causing a lot of problems.

Because this transfer seemed unfair, I made a complaint to our department head. Now he has scheduled a meeting with me and my manager to discuss the situation. How can I get him to move me back to my previous location?

ANSWER: Although you blame your snippy colleague for this problem, the fact that both of you were transferred clearly indicates that management holds you responsible as well. They undoubtedly view this as a silly squabble between two immature employees who put their dislike for each other ahead of what's best for the business.

Unless you can acknowledge your contribution to the conflict, your odds of reversing the transfer will be slim. Therefore, when meeting with the department head, you should not complain about anything. Instead, you need to convince him that this has been a learning experience for you.

For example: "I am truly sorry that my disagreements with Brenda created problems for our group. By taking her remarks personally and refusing to speak to her, I just made the situation worse. That was really childish, and it will never happen again.

"Although I completely understand why I was transferred, the hourlong commute is creating problems in my personal life. If you could give me one more chance to work at my former office, I can assure you there will be no more issues."

If you come across as mature, professional and contrite, management may be willing to grant your request. But if you still appear to be angry or resentful, they probably won't consider it.

Q: In our office, the women often come to work wearing skimpy tops, sleeveless dresses and flimsy sandals. Although I realize some companies have a casual culture where everyone dresses informally, that is not the case here. The men all wear coats and ties, but most of the women look like they're going to a picnic.

I was always taught that you should wear businesslike attire if you want to be taken seriously. I hope you will comment on this in your column, because these women may have no idea that they could be hurting their chances of advancement.

A: An old adage states that you should dress for the position you want, not the one you have. This doesn't mean that an ambitious mechanic should come to work in a suit, but it does mean that people should consider the impression made by their clothing.

Today, career-minded women have a wide variety of suitable options when it comes to business attire. Nevertheless, some of them have been known to make unfortunate choices.

Readers, if you have any opinions about "dressing do's and don'ts" for professional women, send them to me at http://www.yourofficecoach.com or via Twitter @officecoach.

Nation

Ferguson mayor: No severance package for Wilson

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP)—Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson did not receive a severance package when he resigned over the weekend, the St. Louis suburb's mayor said Sunday.

Wilson, 28, won't receive any further pay or benefits, and he and the city have cut their ties, Mayor James Knowles told reporters a day after Wilson tendered his resignation, which was effective immediately.

Wilson, who is white, had been on administrative leave since he killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, during an Aug. 9 confrontation. A grand jury decided Monday not to indict him, sparking days of sometimes violent protests in Ferguson and other cities.

Wilson wrote in his resignation letter that his "continued employment may put the residents and police officers of the City of Ferguson at risk, which is a circumstance I cannot allow."

His lawyer, Neil Bruntrager, told The Associated Press that Wilson decided to step aside after police Chief Tom Jackson told him about the alleged threats on Saturday.

"The information we had was that there would be actions targeting the Ferguson (police) department or buildings in Ferguson related to the police department," Bruntrager said. He said Wilson, who had worked for the department for less than three years, and the city were already discussing an exit strategy, acknowledging that Wilson staying on as an officer there would be impossible.

Many have criticized the authorities' handling of the case, but Knowles said no leadership changes were in the works. Asked if he would resign, Jackson said flatly, "No."

AP

A clergy member assists a protester as he is taken to the ground on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, at Kiener Plaza in St. Louis. Protesters and police clashed following an NFL football game between the St. Louis Rams and the Oakland Raiders as protests continued following a grand jury's decision not to indict a Ferguson police officer in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

Benjamin Crump, an attorney for Brown's family, said Wilson's resignation was not a surprise.

"It was always believed that the police officer would do what was in his best interest, both personally and professionally," Crump said. "We didn't believe that he would be able to be effective for the Ferguson community nor the Ferguson Police Department because of the tragic circumstances that claimed the life of Michael Brown Jr."

Crump said the family is still considering civil litigation such as a wrongful death lawsuit, "but don't let that get confused with the fact that they really wanted the killer of their child to be held accountable."

Victoria Rutherford of Ferguson said she believed Wilson should have not only resigned, but been convicted of a crime.

"I'm upset. I have a 16-year-old son. It could've been him. I feel that he was absolutely in the wrong," she said.

Others residents were more sympathetic. Reed Voorhees said he hoped Wilson could find similar work "someplace where he would enjoy life, and move on with his life."

Wilson has spent his career as a police officer, first in neighboring Jennings, then in Ferguson. Bruntrager said it's all he's ever wanted to do.

"In terms of what it (the resignation) means, it means at this point he doesn't have a paycheck," Bruntrager said. "He has no income so he'll have to make some decisions pretty quickly."

Wilson fatally shot Brown in the middle of a Ferguson street after the two scuffled inside Wilson's police SUV. Brown's body was left for more than four hours as police investigated and angry onlookers gathered.

Some witnesses have said Brown had his hands up when Wilson shot him. Wilson told the grand jury that he feared for his life when Brown hit him and reached for his gun.

The U.S. Justice Department is conducting a civil rights investigation into the shooting and a separate investigation of police department practices. It isn't clear when those results will be announced.

The White House said President Barack Obama will hold meetings on the Ferguson situation Monday. A Cabinet meeting will focus on his administration's review of federal programs that provide military-style equipment to law enforcement agencies. Meetings with civil rights leaders, law enforcement officials and others will focus on ways to build trust and strengthen communities.

After the grand jury's decision was announced, 12 commercial buildings in Ferguson were destroyed by fire. There have been well over 100 arrests at St. Louis-area protests in that time.

Knowles said there hasn't been a cost assessment of the damage in Ferguson yet, and he promised residents and businesses that the city will do all it can to seek financial help.

"We are committed to rebuilding our city," he said.

Florida woman found dead with arrows in head

MARY ESTHER, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man told police he shot his mother with a gun and a bow-and-arrow and then stabbed her Sunday because he claimed she "stole his diamonds and also gave his father cancer," authorities said.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office received a call at 2:48 a.m. Sunday reporting a man knocking over Christmas decorations and yelling at another person. When deputies arrived, they found 65-year-old Gloria Watkins slumped forward in a chair with arrows protruding from her head.

Watkins

Her son, Michael Watkins, 42, admitted to the killing, according to an arrest report.

"You see that, that's death," Watkins said as he pointed to his mother, according to the report.

Watkins claimed his mother "stole his diamonds and also gave his father cancer" and that "he had to kill her because she was trying to kill him," the report said. The report did not say why or how she was trying to kill him.

Watkins was charged with murder and resisting arrest without violence. The sheriff's office said Watkins ignored repeated commands to get on the ground. After eventually complying, he stood up and retrieved a large knife from a sheath on his belt, authorities said.

Deputies used stun guns on Watkins twice.

An autopsy was to be conducted on the victim. It's not clear if Watkins has an attorney. Officials with the jail and the sheriff's office could not be reached.

Backpack filled with $100K found in restaurant

The owner of a Burger King in San Jose, Calif., made a whopper of a discovery in his restaurant last week: a backpack stuffed with $100,000.

A restaurant employee first spotted the backpack Wednesday while cleaning a booth, owner Altaf Chaus said.

Hours later, the backpack remained untouched and no one had come into the restaurant to claim it.

The employee notified Chaus, who then peeked inside the backpack in the hopes of finding out who owned it.

"I opened the bag and was like, 'Whoa, that was a lot of money,' " he said.

Stacks of cash held together by rubber bands filled the backpack.

Chaus said he didn't think twice about calling police to report the cash-laden backpack. The bag's owner, he reasoned, probably worked hard to earn it.

"That was very big experience for me," he said. "It was shocking.

"I have never seen that much money."

Why the backpack had so much cash in it remains a mystery.

Inside the bag, police found a Wells Fargo Bank slip showing that someone withdrew $200 to $300, leaving only $7.95 in the account, Chaus said.

San Jose Police Sgt. Heather Randol said investigators are looking for the backpack's owner and holding the cash in the department's found property lockup. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio State player dead of self-inflicted gunshot

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio State football player who disappeared shortly after sending a text message about his concussions was found dead Sunday in a dumpster, apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said. Police spokesman Sgt. Rich Weiner said police received a call around 2:30 p.m. from someone reporting a body found in the trash bin. Weiner said a woman and her son apparently were looking for items in the dumpster when they found the body. "At this time we are able to confirm through tattoos here at the scene that it is the body of Kosta Karageorge," Weiner said. The police spokesman said the preliminary investigation showed that Karageorge apparently died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He said a handgun was found in the dumpster. Police found the body near the campus after a search began when Karageorge went missing Wednesday. The senior defensive tackle had last been seen at his apartment in Columbus, when his roommates said he left to go on a walk.

No bomb found on Spain-to-NY flight after threat

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities at John F. Kennedy International Airport said they found nothing dangerous Sunday on an American Airlines plane after a bomb threat was phoned in and the aircraft arrived from Spain. Flight 67 from Barcelona landed safely in New York City about noon, according to Laura Masvideo, a spokeswoman for the airline. The aircraft was taken to a location near the tarmac where the 200 passengers plus crew members were taken off the aircraft, according to Joe Pentangelo, spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police. Jacob Rosenberg, a New York City resident returning from a vacation in Spain, said the flight had been making good time across the Atlantic, slightly ahead of the scheduled landing. "The plane pulled up to the side of the runway," he said. "Then Port Authority police vehicles pulled up, along with a police bomb squad, fire trucks and K-9 units."

Asia

Hong Kong protesters, police clash; 40 arrested

HONG KONG (AP)—Pro-democracy protesters clashed with police Monday as they tried to surround Hong Kong government headquarters in an attempt to revitalize their flagging movement for democratic reforms after camping out on the city's streets for more than two months.

Repeating scenes that have become familiar since the movement began in late September, protesters carrying umbrellas—which have become symbols of the pro-democracy movement—battled police armed with pepper spray, batons and riot shields.

After student leaders told a big crowd rallying Sunday evening at the main protest site outside government headquarters that they would escalate their campaign, hundreds of protesters pushed past police lines on the other side of the complex from the protest site. They blocked traffic on a main road, but were stopped by police barricades from going down a side road to Chief Executive Leung Chun-Ying's office.

The protesters, many wearing surgical masks, hard hats and safety goggles and chanting, "I want true democracy," said they wanted to occupy the road to prevent Leung and other government officials from getting to work in the morning.

At one point, police charged the crowd, aggressively pushing demonstrators back with pepper spray and batons, after some protesters started pelting them with water bottles and other objects. Police later fell back, letting demonstrators reoccupy the road. At dawn, police charged again and cleared the protesters from some areas around the government headquarters.

AP

Police officers beat up protesters as they try to disperse them outside government headquarters in Hong Kong Monday, Dec. 1, 2014.

Police Senior Superintendent Tsui Wai-hung said 40 protesters had been arrested, adding that authorities would not let the road, a major thoroughfare, remain blocked.

"We will open up this road," he told reporters.

Protesters said they were taking action to force a response from Hong Kong's government, which has made little effort to address their demands that it scrap a plan by China's Communist leaders to use a panel of Beijing-friendly elites to screen candidates for Hong Kong's leader in inaugural 2017 elections.

Hundreds remain entrenched in the main downtown protest site, building tents, work tables and other infrastructure, even as energy has diminished on the streets since the first surge of demonstrations in late September. Numbers typically dwindle in the daytime, with many protesters going to work or school before returning in the evenings.

Authorities last week used an aggressive operation to clear out the protest camp on the busy streets of Hong Kong's crowded Mong Kok district, one of three protest zones around the semi-autonomous city.

"The action was aimed at paralyzing the government's operation," said Alex Chow, secretary general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students. "The government has been stalling ... and we believe we need to focus pressure on the government headquarters, the symbol of the government's power."

The federation is one of two student groups that have played important roles in organizing the protest movement in the former British colony.

"I really want to have real elections for Hong Kong because I don't want the Chinese government to control us, our minds, anything," said protester Ernie Kwok, 21, a maintenance worker and part-time student.

In Britain, a lawmakers' committee said the Chinese Embassy had warned that its members would be refused entry if they tried to go ahead with a visit to Hong Kong as part of an inquiry into the city's relations with the U.K. since the handover of sovereignty to China in 1997.

Richard Ottaway, chairman of Parliament's committee on foreign affairs, said the Chinese authorities were acting in an "overtly confrontational manner." He said he would seek an emergency parliamentary debate on the development.

The Foreign Office called the Chinese message to the lawmakers "regrettable" and said it has expressed its position to the Chinese side "at the most senior levels."

Indian gays, lesbians march for their rights

NEW DELHI (AP)—Nearly a thousand gay rights activists marched through central New Delhi on Sunday to demand an end to discrimination against gays in India's deeply conservative society.

Holding balloons, flags and placards, activists and their supporters sang songs and danced to the beat of Indian drums as they held hands and walked in the rally, which has been held annually over the past few years. Many wore multi-colored wigs, while others wore face masks or had painted their faces.

Some activists carried a 15-meter (50-foot) rainbow-colored banner, a symbol of lesbian, gay and transgender pride.

Indian gays are demanding that the government remove a colonial-era law banning same-sex relations. India's Supreme Court last year reversed a lower court order that decriminalized gay sex.

Supporters of gays, lesbians and transsexuals vowed to continue pressing for the removal of the law, which makes gay sex punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Thai crown prince strips wife's kin of royal name

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn has asked the government to strip his wife's family of their royally issued surname, the latest development in a high-profile crackdown that involves senior members of the police force.

The move came after at least three relatives of the crown prince's wife, Princess Srirasm, were arrested last week as part of the corruption probe.

The probe has attracted national attention in Thailand, where the private lives of the royal family are kept discreet. But many questions remain unanswered, primarily because of strict lese majeste laws that carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison for insulting the monarchy.

In a letter dated Friday but released over the weekend, the crown prince ordered the "cancellation of the royally bestowed family name 'Akrapongpreecha,'" which was issued after the pair married in 2001. The brief letter, which was sent to the Interior Ministry, gave no explanation for the action.

National police spokesman Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri confirmed the letter's authenticity.

Srirasm is the crown prince's third wife and was last seen in public a week ago at a royal ceremony alongside her husband. They have a 9-year-old son, who is a presumed heir to the throne.

The crackdown has included the arrest of at least eight police officers, who face serious charges ranging from bribery and extortion to defaming the monarchy.

Thailand's police department has a reputation as one of the country's most corrupt institutions.

The junta that has ruled the country since toppling an elected government on May 22 claims it is prioritizing the fight against corruption, but critics say graft remains institutionalized and the army's real goal is to cripple political rivals led by self-exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup.

The crackdown comes at a sensitive time for the monarchy with King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 86, the world's longest-reigning monarch, in poor health.

Worries about the king's health and succession have contributed to Thailand's political instability over the past eight years. As the wife of the crown prince, Srirasm would potentially become the next queen of Thailand.

Lockdown lifted at US base in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.S. Osan Air Base in South Korea lifted a lockdown Monday that had been ordered as a precaution after someone reported an unscheduled "active shooter drill" at the high school.

Security forces swept the school and its perimeters and found no injuries or suspicious activities, according to a posting on the base's Facebook site.

Morgan Nugent, the principal of Osan American High School, said in a Facebook posting that officials decided to err "on the side of safety" and lock the school down after a teacher received what sounded like an automated call saying there was "an active shooter drill taking place." There was no such drill scheduled Monday.

Osan Air Base, located south of Seoul, is the headquarters of U.S. air forces in South Korea, the 7th Air Force. The base is also home to the 7th Air Forces' 51st Fighter Wing. About 7,500 to 8,000 U.S. troops, civilian employees and their family members live and work on base, according to the base's public affairs office.

About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as a deterrent to North Korea, whose 1950 attack started the Korean War.

The presence of the U.S. troops and annual U.S.-South Korean war drills are a continuing point of contention with North Korea, which claims that they are signs of hostility and designs at invading the North.

Boys discover baby's body buried at Sydney beach

SYDNEY (AP)—Two young boys playing on a Sydney beach on Sunday found an infant's body buried in the sand, police said, one week after a newborn baby was discovered alive at the bottom of a drain in the city's suburbs.

The boys, ages 6 and 7, discovered the infant's naked body while digging in the sand at Sydney's popular Maroubra beach on Sunday morning, New South Wales state police Inspector Andrew Holland said.

The body was too decomposed for officials to immediately determine the baby's age, gender or cause of death, Holland said, adding that it appeared to be "a very small infant." An autopsy will be performed.

The discovery comes one week after a group of cyclists rescued an infant whose cries they heard coming from the bottom of a roadside drain in a Sydney suburb. Police said the baby had spent five days in the drain. The baby's mother has been charged with attempted murder.

Officials on Sunday said they were hunting through hospital records to try and find the parents of the baby buried at the beach. The boys who discovered the infant were receiving counseling.

World

Qatar bars US couple from leaving after acquittal

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—An American couple cleared Sunday by a Qatari appeals court of wrongdoing in the death of their 8-year-old adopted daughter has been barred from leaving the Middle Eastern country just hours after they were told they were free to go.

Matthew and Grace Huang were stopped from exiting the conservative Gulf nation and had their passports confiscated as they tried to pass through airport immigration control in the capital, Doha, said family representative Eric Volz, who is traveling with them. The unexpected delay adds a new twist to a closely watched legal saga over the death of their adopted daughter, Gloria, that may have stemmed from cultural misunderstandings in the conservative Gulf nation.

The Los Angeles couple had been banned from leaving the energy-rich OPEC nation while their case made its way through the courts, but the appeals court ruled Sunday they were free to leave after the presiding judge overturned a child endangerment conviction against them.

They were met at the airport by U.S. Ambassador Dana Shell Smith, reflecting the intensity of American government interest in the case.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed the court's decision to overturn the Huangs' conviction, but said the U.S. was "deeply concerned about new delays that have prevented their departure." Kerry said in a press statement that he had spoken Sunday with Foreign Minister Khalid al-Attiya and urged the Qatari government to immediately implement the court's decision and allow the family to return to the U.S. "without further delay."

"The thoroughly documented findings of the court clearly establish the Huangs' innocence. The 22 long months of court proceedings following their daughter's tragic death have compounded the tragedy for the Huang family, and it is time now, as the Appeals Court stated, to let the Huangs return home," Kerry said.

AP

American couple Grace, right, and Matthew Huang walk to their departure gate with U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, Dana Shell Smith, left, at the Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

The Huangs spent months behind bars before being let out on their own recognizance last November. They were convicted in March of this year of child endangerment and sentenced to three years in prison. They were allowed to remain free pending their appeal.

A doctor in Qatar who conducted Gloria's autopsy determined that dehydration and wasting disease were the cause of death. The Huangs have maintained their innocence and say Gloria suffered from medical problems complicated by unusual eating habits that included periods of binging and self-starvation. Prosecutors alleged she died after being denied food and locked in her room.

The Huangs have two other African-born adopted children and have been pressing Qatari officials unsuccessfully for permission to leave the country to be with them.

"It has been a long and emotional trial for me and my family, and Grace and I want to go home and be reunited with our sons," Matthew Huang said shortly after the ruling. "We have been unable to grieve our daughter."

WHO will miss Ebola targets it set for Dec. 1

LONDON (AP)—Two months ago, the World Health Organization launched an ambitious plan to stop the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa, aiming to isolate 70 percent of the sick and safely bury 70 percent of the victims in the three hardest-hit countries—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—by December 1.

Only Guinea is on track to meet the December 1 goal, according to an update from WHO.

In Liberia, only 23 percent of cases are isolated and 26 percent of the needed burial teams are in place. In Sierra Leone, about 40 percent of cases are isolated while 27 percent of burial teams are operational.

With the target date looming on Monday, it looks almost certain WHO's goals will be missed, marking another failure in attempts to slow the biggest-ever outbreak of the deadly disease. The Ebola outbreak was first reported in Guinea in March and spiraled out of control after being declared a public health emergency in August.

WHO's Dr. Bruce Aylward acknowledged in October that to reach the December 1 goal would be "really pushing the system hard."

"If we don't do it in 60 days and we take 90 days: No. 1, a lot more people will die that shouldn't; and No. 2, we will need that much more capacity on the ground to be able to manage the caseload," said Aylward, who is directing WHO's Ebola response.

In recent weeks, there have been some successes in curbing Ebola; cases seem to be declining or stabilizing in Liberia and Guinea. But the area around Sierra Leone's capital and a district in the country's north are seeing a severe surge in cases.

The December 1 targets had been met in many places—but not all, which was the goal, said Anthony Banbury, who is heading the U.N.'s Ebola response.

"There are still going to be many people who catch the disease and many people who die from it," Banbury said.

Even if the December 1 targets had been reached, WHO and others had predicted Ebola would continue sickening people in West Africa and possibly elsewhere until sometime next year. Ebola has sickened more than 16,000 people of whom nearly 7,000 have died, according to figures released by the World Health Organization Friday.

Failing to reach the December 1 target now suggests Ebola will spread even further as capacities to respond become even more stretched, according to Oyewale Tomori, of Redeemer's University in Nigeria, who sits on WHO's Emergency Ebola committee.

"We need to redouble our efforts to see what we can do to reduce the spread and catch up with the virus," he said. "Right now, it doesn't look good."

Other experts said the WHO goals were never very significant.

"You want to isolate 100 percent of patients with Ebola and have 100 percent safe burials," said Sebastian Funk, director of the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. "Getting to 70 percent doesn't really mean a lot."

Pope, patriarch demand end to IS attacks

ISTANBUL (AP)—Pope Francis and the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians demanded an end to the persecution of religious minorities in Syria and Iraq on Sunday and called for a "constructive dialogue" with Muslims, capping the pontiff's three-day visit to Turkey with a strong show of Christian unity in the face of suffering and violence.

Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I issued a joint declaration urging leaders in the region to intensify assistance to victims of the Islamic State group, and especially to allow Christians who have had a presence in the region for 2,000 years to remain on their native lands.

"The terrible situation of Christians and all those who are suffering in the Middle East calls not only for our constant prayer but also for an appropriate response on the part of the international community," they wrote.

Specifically, Francis told reporters on the way home from Istanbul that all Islamic leaders—political, religious, academic—should clearly condemn terrorism so that their people hear it directly from their mouths.

"We need a global condemnation—including from Muslims—who say `This isn't who we are. This isn't the Quran,'" he said.

Francis, who represents the 1.2 billion-strong Catholic Church, and Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, called for "constructive dialogue" with Islam "based on mutual respect and friendship."

AP

Pope Francis, left, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I bless the faithful gathered in the courtyard of the Patriarchal Church of St. George, in Istanbul, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

"Inspired by common values and strengthened by genuine fraternal sentiments, Muslims and Christians are called to work together for the sake of justice, peace and respect for the dignity and rights of every person, especially in those regions where they once lived for centuries in peaceful coexistence and now tragically suffer together the horrors of war," they said.

Francis' outreach to Muslims in the Muslim nation, and his comments about the Islamic assault on Christians next door, took center stage during his brief visit: His prayer in Istanbul's Sultan Ahmet mosque was replayed again and again on Turkish television in a sign that his gesture was greatly appreciated. And it seemed that the message was reciprocated: The grand mufti of Istanbul, Rahmi Yaran, who received him at the mosque, said he hoped that Francis' visit would "contribute to the world getting along well and living in peace."

Francis told reporters on the way home from Istanbul that he was greatly touched by the care that Yaran took in showing him around the mosque and explaining verses of the Quran to him, such that he felt inspired to pray together with him when they reached the eastern most part of the room.

Focus

LGBT baby boomers face tough retirement hurdles

NEW YORK (AP)—For Kathy Murphy, the difference between being gay or straight is $583 a month.

Retirement should have been a "slam dunk," the 62-year-old Texas widow says. She saved, bought a house with her spouse and has a pension through her employer.

But Murphy's golden years have not been as secure as they should have been. She is missing out on thousands of dollars a year in Social Security benefits simply because she was married to a woman, not a man.

Murphy fell into a loophole in Social Security that denies survivor benefits to same-sex couples depending on what state they live in. Had Murphy and her wife, Sara Barker, lived next door in New Mexico, a state that does recognize same-sex marriage, this wouldn't have been an issue.

"If I had been straight, getting widow's benefits would have been a slam dunk," Murphy says. "I never thought I would live to see same-sex marriage, but the government still minimizes my marriage and my relationship of 32 years."

Murphy could be thought of as just one of the many baby boomers who are not prepared for retirement. But while the group overall is not ready to stop working, gay boomers face challenges that make them even more vulnerable, experts say.

For many, decades of workplace discrimination impaired their earning power. The AIDS crisis caused lasting financial and psychological damage, particularly for gay men. And legal pitfalls within Social Security, the cornerstone in any senior's financial planning, have left gay boomers ill-equipped for retirement.

Same-sex couples in general are likely to have saved far less for retirement than their straight counterparts, according to an exclusive analysis of the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The center is jointly operated by The Associated Press and NORC, a leading research center at the University of Chicago.

The median retirement savings for a same-sex couple is roughly $66,000, while straight married couples have roughly $88,000, according to the data, which looks at the finances of straight and same-sex couples aged 19 to 95 going back to 2001.

This data, as well as other studies, show that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults tend to be poorer, in worse health, and most often, alone—with no family to care for them when they reach old age.

"In the aging world, there has been little regard for even the existence of LGBT older people, let alone their particular social and financial needs," says Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE, a national organization focused on social services and advocacy for LGBT seniors.

When financial firm Prudential asked LGBT adults aged 25 to 68 last year if they were "well prepared" for retirement, only 14 percent said they were, compared with 29 percent of the total population.

And in a sad irony, many of the aging pioneers of gay rights are too old to reap the retirement benefits from the marriage laws they championed.

LOWER EARNINGS

Gays and lesbians have faced higher unemployment, lower wages and a workplace where discrimination based upon sexual orientation was common. While many corporations have non-discrimination policies now, it is still legal to fire someone for their sexual orientation in 21 states, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Two polls, one by Pew Research in 2013 and one by Gallup in 2012, reached the same conclusion: LGBT individuals were more likely to make less money than their straight peers during their careers. Gay men earned as much as 32 percent less than straight men, according to research by the Williams Institute, a California-based think tank that focuses on LGBT issues.

As a result, gay men and women over 65 are more likely to end up in poverty. Lesbians, who face wage discrimination because of both their gender and sexual orientation, are even more vulnerable.

Being LGBT "just amplifies the financial problems women already face in the workforce," says Ineke Mushovic, executive director of the Movement Advancement Project, a Denver-based LGBT-focused think tank.

The Gallup poll found that 15.9 percent of gay men over 65 were near or below the Federal poverty line, compared to 9.7 percent of heterosexual men in the same age group. While the Gallup poll showed poverty rates for straight and gay women to be statistically similar, other studies, including a 2009 report by the Williams Institute, showed lesbian couples over the age of 65 were twice as likely to live below the poverty line as opposite-sex couples, and were much more likely to be on public assistance programs such as food stamps.

AP

In this Aug. 27, 2014 photo, Arnim Kiwi poses for a portrait in his apartment in New York. Kiwi has been struggling to keep this rent-stabilized apartment ever since his partner died last year and he can't afford to move. He's now living on half the income the couple once had, as his partner died before they were able to get legally married.

MARRIED WITHOUT BENEFITS

Gay couples were only recently extended the core elements of the retirement safety net available to married straight couples: inheritance of a spouse's Social Security benefits and pensions. But even with the recent expansion of gay marriage, same-sex couples still face discrimination when it comes to benefits.

When a husband or wife in a straight marriage dies, their spouses can typically collect Social Security benefits based on the higher earner's work history. Not so for many gay spouses. Only widows or widowers in states that recognize same-sex marriage can get that higher income.

Why? Social Security differs from most federal programs in that the law requires it to use individual states' definition of marriage. That requirement is why the Obama Administration was unable to extend Social Security benefits to all same-sex couples nationwide, even after the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act last year. Before then, the federal government did not recognize same-sex marriage at all, even in states where it was legal. Domestic partnerships are still unrecognized by the federal government.

In Florida, Arlene Goldberg faces a retirement of significantly less income. When her partner of 47 years, Carol Goldwasser, died in March, Goldberg was denied her wife's Social Security survivor benefits on the basis that Florida does not recognize same-sex marriage.

Goldwasser's death certificate said "single, never married," even though the couple wed in New York in 2011. Had they been living in New York, Goldberg would earn $800 more in monthly benefits.

"The Social Security problems were bad, but the fact they listed Carol as single was the worst possible thing they could have done to me," Goldberg says.

The State of Florida revised Goldwasser's death certificate in October to recognize the couple's marriage, but Goldberg still has not received any Federal benefits.

"The Social Security Administration knows this is a problem, but there is little they can do, because they're bound to the letter of the law," says Karen Loewy, a senior attorney at Lambda Legal, a national organization that focuses on legal issues affecting the LGBT community.

In the case of Murphy and Baker, the couple got married in Massachusetts in 2010. Baker died in 2012 and since then Murphy has been unable to collect her wife's benefit of $583 a month. Same-sex marriage has been legal in Massachusetts since 2003, but it's not allowed in Texas, and the federal government is required to use the couples' state of residence to determine benefits.

"I try not to worry about money, but it's about fairness," Murphy says.

This isn't the first time state marriage laws and Social Security has been at odds. The denial of benefits to mixed-race couples was cited by the Supreme Court in 1967, when it struck down laws that barred black and whites from marrying. For gay couples, the state laws that block federal benefits amount to similar discrimination, advocates say.

Government agencies have little understanding of the scope of problems facing the LGBT demographic. The Administration on Aging, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, collects data on aging minority groups such as African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics, but not on gay individuals. This is important because the federal government allocates money toward specific elderly programs based on these surveys.

The White House has called for legislation to allow same-sex couples to access survivor benefits in all states. It also has asked for an update of the Older Americans Act to authorize data collection on LGBT individuals. However, there has been little momentum in Congress to take up these issues.

"We're not talking about

See LGBT on Page 18

OBAMA

From Page 18

some fringe benefit here," says SAGE's Adams. "Social Security is the most important financial resource for older Americans in this country, and this is just as true for LGBT older Americans."

THE SHADOW OF AIDS

Bill C. was never supposed to reach retirement. Diagnosed with HIV in the late 1980s, he spent three years in and out of hospitals with AIDS-related infections, watching helplessly as dozens of his friends died.

The 67-year-old, who did not want his last name used for fear his HIV status would negatively impact his acting career, chose to live for what moments he thought he had left. He cashed in his retirement savings and bought a waterfront home on Long Island he knew he couldn't afford. There he thought he'd spend his days sailing, fishing and riding horses until the disease took him.

He nearly died a handful of times, spending much of 1995, 1996 and 1997 in the hospital. He had to shutter his fabric business.

And the dream house where he was supposed to live out the rest of his life? It was taken by the bank in 1995.

Like Bill C., many long-term AIDS survivors interviewed by the AP talked about poor financial decisions they made in the 1980s and 1990s—when they believed they were facing a death sentence—and are now paying for as they enter retirement.

The advent of life-prolonging antiretroviral "cocktail" therapies in the late 1990s helped end that fatalistic outlook, but by then, HIV-positive baby boomers had lost a decade or more of savings time. Those who had cashed in their retirement funds had to start saving again. Those who had AIDS-related infections went on workplace disability, stunting their savings potential.

"A lot of people who had jobs and financial resources before they became sick were then stuck in some relatively permanent status of financial disarray," says Sean Strub, the founder of POZ, a New York-based magazine focused on the HIV-positive community.

Jim Albaugh is one of these people.

Diagnosed with HIV in 1987, then AIDS in 1990, Albaugh was in and out of hospitals. But after coming back from the brink of death, he faces a different crisis: He can't work as much as before he was sick and has little savings.

When the 55-year-old former actor does save, "something pops up and it's gone." Recently, he says, he was "lucky" to buy a new pair of shoes. Without the public support programs that help him with his New York City rent, he would not be able to get by.

Albaugh has 10 years before he hits retirement age. But when asked about it, he says: "I don't think about retirement because I don't believe I will have one."

He can't work as much as before and has fallen behind on saving for retirement.

"I was working 40 hours a week and I ended up twice in the hospital," he says. "It took me a long time to realize I couldn't work as much as I really wanted."

Albaugh hopes to wean himself off some public aid programs in the next couple years but acknowledges that he'll need others, like Social Security disability.

"I'll work as hard as I can until I can work no more. After that," he says, his voice trailing off, "I don't know what I will do."

AP

In this Oct. 16, 2014 photo, Jim Albaugh talks about his living arrangements in the New York apartment he shares with two roommates.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the Late

†Julita Sablan Taitano Palacios

Lovingly known as "Julie"

would like to thank God Almighty for his unfailing love and the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we have full confidence that our Loved One is now in a better place in the presence of our Creator in Heaven.

We also want to express our deep and profound appreciation to all our families, relatives and friends who have given unselfishly and have comforted and shown love to us in so many ways. Your presence and encouragement have helped us, touched us and has given us the strength to carry on each day. Most especially, we thank you all for your prayers.

To God be the Glory!

John Diego, Fatima Remedio, John Diego Jr., Angel Keoni and Family

Overdrive

Keanu Reeves' motorcycle firm produces $78K bike

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HAWTHORNE, Calif.—Sporting a beard and wearing brown leather boots and jacket, Keanu Reeves summed up the new motorcycle he's selling in a single word: "Awesome."

The $78,000 KRGT-1, years in the making, is a "custom motorcycle you can really ride," the actor said.

Reeves conceived and designed the bike in partnership with his Arch Motorcycle Co. co-owner Gard Hollinger, who built the KRGT-1 off specs and sketches he and Reeves cooked up.

Standing in a high-ceiling brick-walled warehouse here, surrounded by sections of KRGT-1s in various stages of readiness, Hollinger said his first introduction to Reeves was not very promising.

"Someone called and asked me if I was interested in building a sissy bar for Keanu Reeves," Hollinger recalled. "I said, 'No, but I'm happy to meet with him.'"

Within a short time, Reeves had given Hollinger a 2005 Harley-Davidson to customize, and a friendship was born.

Hollinger was a lifelong rider, mechanic and designer, having started racing dirt bikes as a kid growing up in Los Angeles. He worked in a boatyard in the San Juan Islands, owned a motorcycle shop in Seattle, and built choppers and bobbers as a "fabricator for hire" and then at his own Ziggy Harly Custom Motorcycles in Canoga Park.

Reeves came to motorcycles later in life. When he was 22, he bought a Kawasaki KLR600 while working on a movie in Germany. The bike was stolen, but the hook was set. When he returned to Los Angeles, he bought a classic Norton Commando.

Over the years, he acquired more bikes—sometimes buying them for the duration of a movie shoot, and selling them when the production wrapped—owning MotoGuzzis, Suzukis, and Harleys.

The KRGT-1 started as a one-off custom bike for Reeves, but as it became a reality, the actor started talking about making more of them. Hollinger couldn't see it, and found reasons to dismiss the idea.

Finally, Reeves told him: "I want you to stop telling me why we can't do this, and start telling me how we can.' "

Once the design was underway, the two men were in agreement about what the KRGT-1 would be and do.

"We didn't want a bike that would just look pretty sitting in your living room," Hollinger said. "It had to be comfortable and reliable."

LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Actor Keanu Reeves, left, and Gard Hollinger have teamed up to create Arch Motorcycles, makers of high-performance and very expensive motorcycles in Hawthorne, Calif.

"It had to go into extreme lean angles and really take care of you," Reeves said.

Now completed and undergoing the testing required to pass emissions and noise standards, the KRGT-1 looks like a rough-hewn road warrior. Blacked-out rims, cylinder heads and fork tubes are stark against the bright chrome and polished aluminum of the gas tank, exhaust pipes and upswept muffler.

The engine—a 120-cubic-inch V-twin producing 121 horsepower and 121 pound-feet of torque—roars like an untamed beast.

But this beast is a beauty, a hand-crafted, 538-pound piece of motorcycle art. Each bike requires hundreds of hours of labor.

The two-section gas tank alone requires 60 hours of work to turn from 600 pounds of solid aluminum into the sinuously-curved 21-pound final product.

The bike is fast, too. At a recent test run on the track at Willow Springs International Raceway near Lancaster, Hollinger said, professional motorcycle racer Danny Eslick took the KRGT1 up to 138 mph.

Arch employs eight workers at the Hawthorne facility. It is in the process of assembling the first five production KRGT-1s and crafting parts for more. The company is taking orders for bikes that Hollinger said can be delivered in 90 days.

Hollinger and Reeves plan to build a maximum of 100 machines a year, and may expand their line to three different Arch models.

But the price point won't come down.

"There's a general attitude that no motorcycle should ever cost $78,000," Hollinger said. "But that's the kind of person who's never going to buy a Roll Royce. We never set out to make something affordable."

Dealership's maintenance advice goes beyond what's necessary

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q My 2006 Kia Optima has 50,000 miles and the dealer has recommended maintenance that is over $2,000. Do you think it is a good idea to go along with the recommended maintenance? The list includes coolant flush, transmission service, power steering flush, fuel induction service, cabin filter, spark plugs, front struts, rear struts and air filter. The car is running just fine at the moment most likely due to low mileage and diligent maintenance on my part.

A Let's break it down item by item. According to my ALLDATA automotive database, under "severe service" operating conditions Kia recommends coolant replacement at 90,000 miles, automatic transmission fluid replacement at 54,000 miles, air filter and cabin air filter replacement at 30,000-mile intervals, and new spark plugs at 100,000 miles. Some of the service intervals are longer under "normal service" operation. There is no specific recommendation for fuel/induction service, power steering fluid replacement or front/rear struts.

Look in your owner's manual and follow the specific maintenance recommendations from Kia. With the incredible quality of today's motor vehicles, I don't think there's a compelling reason to have additional services performed—especially front and rear strut replacement. Shocks and struts have far better durability than components from past decades. I would suggest you consider strut replacement on an as-needed basis—I doubt you'll feel a deterioration in ride quality and handling before the vehicle reaches 100,000 miles.

Would it be wrong to have the power steering system flushed and refilled now? Or a fuel injection/induction system cleaning performed? No, of course not. Historically I've been somewhat of an "over-maintainer" with the goal of keeping my higher-mileage vehicles running longer. But you have a relatively new vehicle with just 50,000 miles on. Have Kia's recommended maintenance done and keep on doing what you've been doing.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†Jesus Sablan Santos

Lovingly known as "Chumbai" / "Jesus Maka"

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for their kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved in the caring hands of our Creator.

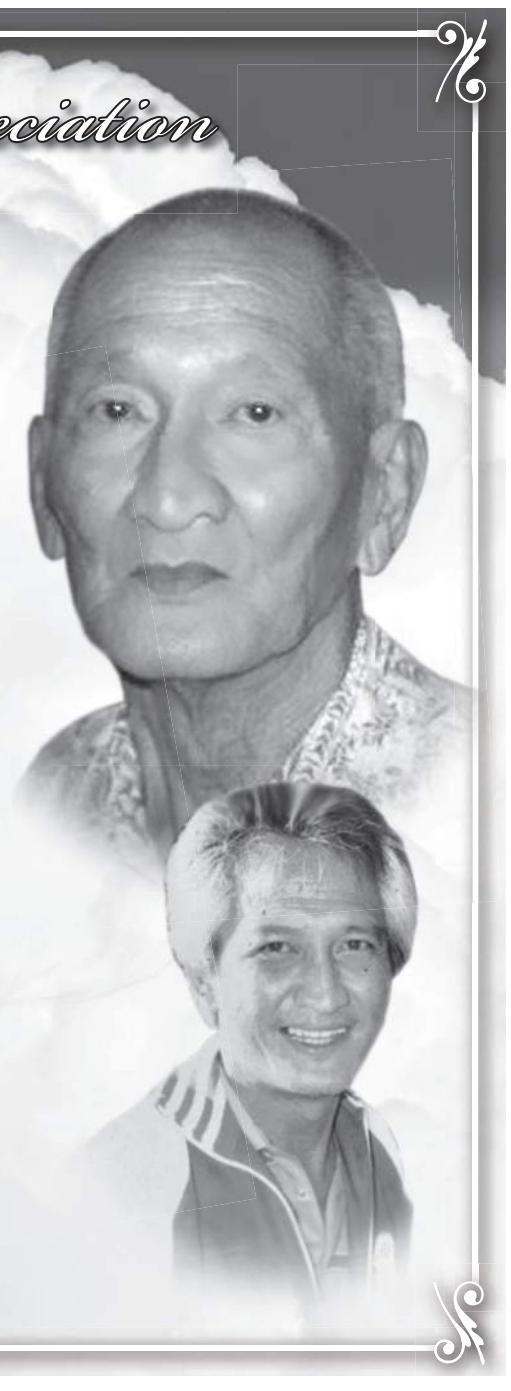
We are especially grateful for Father Ken Hezel, Tan Ko Palacios, Alter Servers and Choir, Borja Funeral Home, to all who have helped us in one way or another (here on Saipan and Guam), and for your presence at the Daily Masses and Eucharistic Celebrations – We Thank You.

Your compassion and generosity will always be remembered.

May God Bless us all!

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Thongpan (Linda) T. Santos and Children
"Maka" Family



Life & Style

Indicted Internet entrepreneur Dotcom avoids jail

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Indicted Internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom on Monday defeated efforts by prosecutors to send him back to a New Zealand jail or make him wear an electronic monitoring bracelet but says his long-running legal battle has left him broke.

After a three-day hearing, Auckland District Court Judge Nevin Dawson ruled there was no evidence Dotcom had secret assets or posed a flight risk, according to Fairfax Media.

U.S. and New Zealand prosecutors had sought to have Dotcom's bail revoked, arguing he might try to flee the country after earning tens of millions of dollars since his 2012 arrest. Prosecutors said he'd breached his bail conditions in several ways, including indirectly contacting a former associate.

Dawson did tighten Dotcom's bail conditions by ruling he can no longer travel by private helicopter or boat and must report to police twice a week, Fairfax reported. But the judge said it would be inappropriate to deprive Dotcom of his freedom on the evidence presented.

The German-born Dotcom is fighting attempts by U.S. prosecutors to extradite him on racketeering charges over his website Megaupload, which authorities shut down at the time of his arrest. His extradition hearing has been delayed several times and is now scheduled for June.

AP

In this Wednesday, July 3, 2013 file photo, Internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom speaks during the Intelligence and Security select committee hearing at Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand.

Prosecutors say Megaupload was used to illegally download millions of songs and movies in one of the biggest copyright cases in history. But Dotcom says he can't be held responsible for those who chose to use Megaupload for illegal downloads.

At the time of his arrest, authorities froze Dotcom's worldwide assets, which were worth over $40 million, and jailed him for a month.

But since then, Dotcom says he has earned another 40 million New Zealand dollars ($31 million) from new ventures, including the file-sharing site Mega and a music venture, Baboom.

But he also spent several million dollars on a failed political campaign and says his legal case has so far cost him more than NZ$10 million.

He told the unBound Digital conference by video link last week that he was "officially broke," which had caused his New Zealand lawyers to abandon him after working for more than two years on his case. He blamed prosecutors for his predicament.

"They have certainly managed to drain my resources, and dehydrate me, and without lawyers I'm defenseless," he told the conference.

He later clarified on Twitter that he'd paid the rent on the mansion he lives in near Auckland through mid-2015 and that he would return to court soon, seeking to have some of his frozen assets released to pay his legal fees and living expenses.

Jacqueline Woodson responds to racist joke

Author Jacqueline Woodson addressed Daniel Handler's (aka "Lemony Snicket") racist joke, Friday, with an unflinching response in The New York Times.

Handler previously made offhanded comments about Woodson being allergic to watermelon while hosting the National Book Awards. Woodson was accepting an award in the young adult category for her latest book "Brown Girl Dreaming."

Woodson

Amid waves of criticism and backlash over the comments, Handler has since apologized and donated $110,000 to the grassroots organization We Need Diverse Books while Woodson issued an indirect statement through her publisher.

Woodson's essay in the Times takes Handler's comments head on, though.

Titled "The Pain of the Watermelon Joke," Woodson explores her own background and the evolution of her understanding of the racially charged significance of the watermelon. By the time she was 11-years-old, she explains, the fruit had become repulsive to her.

"By making light of that deep and troubled history, he showed that he believed we were at a point where we could laugh about it all. His historical context, unlike my own, came from a place of ignorance," Woodson writes.

Like her previous statement, Woodson uses the essay to re-frame the situation by focusing on positive change in a time when the lack of diverse voices in literature has become all-too apparent.

Woodson's mission, she explains, is "to write stories that have been historically absent in this country's body of literature, to create mirrors for the people who so rarely see themselves inside contemporary fiction, and windows for those who think we are no more than the stereotypes they're so afraid of.

To give young people—and all people—a sense of this country's brilliant and brutal history, so that no one ever thinks they can walk onto a stage one evening and laugh at another's too often painful past."

'Mockingjay' tops 'Penguins,' 'Horrible Bosses'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Moviegoers wanted another helping of "The Hunger Games."

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part One" ruled the Thanksgiving box office for a second weekend in a row with $56.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The total haul for the latest installment of the Lionsgate dystopian series starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen stands at $225.7 million domestically and $254.4 million internationally.

"Penguins of Madagascar" opened in second place with a chilly $25.8 million. The animated spin-off centers on the penguin characters from DreamWorks Animation's "Madagascar" franchise. "Penguins" fared better overseas, where the film earned an additional $36 million.

1. **"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 1,"** $56.9 million *($67 million International).*
2. **"Penguins of Madagascar,"** $25.8 million *($36 million international).*
3. **"Big Hero 6,"** $18.7 million *($4.8 million international).*
4. **"Interstellar,"** $15.8 million *($44.4 million international).*
5. **"Horrible Bosses 2,"** $15.7 million *($11.7 million international).*
6. **"Dumb and Dumber To,"** $8.2 million *($4.5 million international).*
7. **"The Theory of Everything,"** $5 million.
8. **"Gone Girl,"** $2.4 million *($10.5 million international).*
9. **"Birdman,"** $1.8 million.
10. **"St. Vincent,"** $1.7 million.

AP

In this image released by Lionsgate, Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

Disney's animated romp "Big Hero 6" and Paramount's spacetime saga "Interstellar" respectively held onto the third and fourth positions with $18.7 million and $15.8 million in their fourth weekend at the box office. The domestic total for "Big Hero 6" has ballooned to $167.2 million, while filmmaker Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" is orbiting $147 million.

The Warner Bros. comedy sequel "Horrible Bosses 2" with Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis and Charlie Day reprising their roles from the original 2011 movie debuted in fifth place with $15.7 million.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker Rentrak, noted the overall box office was down 21 percent from last year when "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "Frozen" dominated the box office.

"It was a situation where there was no way the box office could live up to the strength of the marketplace a year ago at Thanksgiving," said Dergarabedian. "We had two unusually strong films at the top last year that completely knocked it out of the park."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Venezuela gets ballet commemorating Chavez's life

CARACS, Venezuela (AP)—In life, Venezuela's exuberant leader Hugo Chavez often captivated supporters by bursting into song, even the occasional dance. Now that he's gone, supporters are turning to the musical arts to help immortalize him.

A state-sponsored biographical ballet premieres on Saturday, with dozens of performers recounting Chavez's life, from humble roots, to failed coup, to international fame as leader of Venezuela's socialist revolution.

The hour-long show, presented by Venezuela's National Dance Company, blends classic and contemporary choreography, and draws on a range of music including Venezuelan folk melodies, African rhythms and symphonic scores.

Performers use simple dances to depict Chavez's childhood in a humble house with a mud floor, and his days roaming the streets selling homemade papaya sweets known as spiders.

The ballet, entitled "From Spider-Seller to Liberator," shows him shelving his dream of being a major league baseball pitcher to join the army at age 17. Then audience sees a disillusioned Chavez dancing against the background of the country's 1989 riots, in which several hundred people died in the streets.

At a climactic moment, Chavez storms the Venezuelan political stage like a hurricane in 1992, leading failed coup attempt.

Chavez was imprisoned, but not before scoring a few precious moments of airtime in which he grabbed the nation's attention, telling followers he had failed "for now." The ballet is debuting on the 22nd anniversary of the failed coup.

Six years after being sent to prison, Chavez he came to power and remained at the helm of the country until he died of cancer in 2013. The ballet ends with Chavez converted into a disembodied force of justice and socialism.

On the street outside the theater, passersby were unsurprised that the late leader has gotten another commemoration.

"Chavez has become mythic, whether you like it or not," said 23-year-old student Carlos Lozada. "He'll be here as long as the Chavistas remain in power."

Doc rediscovers Bing Crosby's triumphs, tragedies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An upcoming PBS documentary seeks to remind younger generations there was so much more to Bing Crosby than crooning "White Christmas"—from media master to philanthropist to difficult dad.

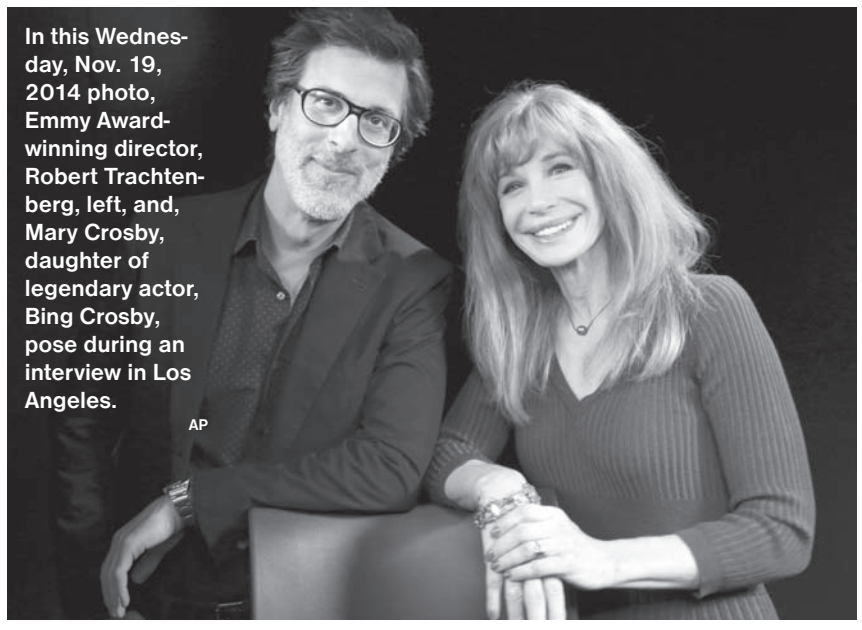
"It's an unprecedented career in the history of show business," says Robert Trachtenberg, director of "American Masters: Bing Crosby Rediscovered," debuting Tuesday. "He really was the first multimedia star of the 20th century."

Crosby established his name on radio and stage throughout the 1920s. By the early 1930s, he was a superstar and for more than two decades, placed at or near the top of record charts, radio ratings and movie box office.

He won an Academy Award as best actor for his performance in 1944's "Going My Way." He received an honorary Grammy in 1963. His later career included a series of highly rated television specials, a format he helped to pioneer.

Then why does Crosby need rediscovering?

"Dad was a really under-the-radar guy," said his daughter, actress Mary Crosby, in a recent interview. "So, when he died (in 1977 of a heart attack at age 74), we followed in those footsteps. And, of course, it took us about three decades to realize that we had really, really done him a disservice."



In this Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 photo, Emmy Award-winning director, Robert Trachtenberg, left, and, Mary Crosby, daughter of legendary actor, Bing Crosby, pose during an interview in Los Angeles.

AP

About midpoint, "Rediscovered" segues from Crosby's public to private life, and into an exploration of his excessive partying, tragic first marriage and troubled relationship with the children of that marriage. As the documentary tells it, both Crosby and his wife, actress Dixie Lee, were alcoholics and while he managed the disease, she did not. She died after a battle with ovarian cancer at age 40.

Frequently on the road for work, Crosby wasn't around much for his family. But when he was present, he was by all accounts a strict father. Six years after Crosby's death came the publication of son Gary Crosby's memoir "Going My Own Way," which claimed, "I'd get bent over and my pants taken down and beat till I bled."

In the film, Mary Crosby recalls a tense post-publication lunch with her half brother, who, according to the actress, said he was goaded into exaggerating the facts to sell more books.

She was furious. But while one of Gary Crosby's three brothers, Phillip Crosby, publicly refuted the severity of Gary Crosby's claim, Crosby's second wife, Kathryn Crosby and his second crop of children, including Mary Crosby, refused to address the allegations at the time.

"That was a huge, incredible mistake," Mary Crosby says in the film. "Because it's one of the things that people think of when his name comes up. Not this incredible legacy of good deeds and beautiful music, but, 'Oh, he's the guy who hit his kids.'"

In her recent interview, the 55-year-old actress said her dad learned from mistakes from his first marriage and first shot at parenthood, which informed his second time around. She recalled a father who was present, attentive and loving.

"He never laid a hand on me," she recalled. "It's important to get that out."

The documentary ultimately lets viewers draw their own conclusions about Bing Crosby's personal life.

But the film's perspective on the Crosby's professional legacy is clear: He was a landmark entertainer, a technological maverick, a colleague who stood up for pals in need.

And, oh yes, he recorded "White Christmas," which went on to become a wistful anthem for anyone pining to be wherever home is for their holidays. Upon its release in 1942, the song was immediately embraced by military serving overseas during World War II. According to Guinness World Records, with 50-million units sold, Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" is the best-selling single of all time.

"When I hear it, I feel such pride and joy," Mary Crosby said. "And not only the memories, but the history, and what that meant to so many. I think it's representative of who he was."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prince William to visit China, Japan next year

LONDON (AP)—Kensington Palace officials say Prince William will make an official visit to China and Japan early next year. Officials said Thursday that William will spend roughly three days in each country. He is expected to travel in late February. William's wife Kate, who is pregnant, is not expected to accompany him. The palace says William will begin his trip in Japan where he will promote trade relations and cultural exchanges and also work to combat illegal wildlife trade. In China he plans to visit Shanghai, Beijing and other cities. His grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, visited China with her husband Prince Philip in 1986.

Original Alice manuscript to travel to US museums

LONDON (AP)—Lewis Carroll's original handwritten, illustrated manuscript for "Alice in Wonderland" will travel to the U.S. to mark its 150th anniversary. The British Library said Thursday it will loan the book—presented by the author to Alice Liddell, who inspired it—to New York's Morgan Library and Museum and the Rosenbach Museum of the Free Library of Philadelphia next year. The work, which bears its original title of "Alice's Adventures Under Ground," was bought by an American dealer in 1928 and returned to Britain in 1948. The British Library also will display the book in late 2015 as part of an exhibition marking 150 years since its 1865 publication. The library also plans a major exhibition next year marking the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Former 'Real World' cast member dies in Wisconsin

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—Police say a former cast member of MTV's "The Real World: New Orleans" has died in Wisconsin. Twenty-eight-year-old Ryan Knight was found unconscious and not breathing at a friend's residence in Kenosha around 10 a.m. Thursday. Efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. Knight is from Kenosha. He was a cast member of "The Real World: New Orleans" in 2010. Kenosha police say Knight had been out with friends the night before his death, and there were no obvious signs of injuries. An autopsy on Friday didn't find any "anatomical cause of death." Toxicology results are pending. Police say Knight had complained of stomach issues over the last two days, and at this time his death is being looked at as medical or accidental in nature.

'Snooki' ties the knot in New Jersey

AP

In this Aug. 25, 2013 file photo, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, right, and Jionni LaValle arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

EAST HANOVER, N.J. (AP)—Snooki has officially tied the knot.

Former "Jersey Shore" star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi married boyfriend Jionni LaValle in a church ceremony Saturday in East Hanover, about 15 miles west of New York City.

The Record (http://bit.ly/1FGNdEC) reports that among the guests were "Jersey Shore" castmates Sammi Giancola and Deena Cortese and Jenni Farley. Polizzi currently stars with Farley in MTV's "Snooki and JWOWW."

A few dozen onlookers waited outside the church.

Seventeen groomsmen and 15 bridesmaids attended the ceremony, which had a "Great Gatsby" theme.

Polizzi and LaValle have two children, ages 2 and 2 months.

Stoic mother holds steady for son about to be deployed

DEAR ABBY: Since the moment my oldest son, "Ryan," enlisted in the U.S. Army, our family has been concerned he would be deployed. Although Ryan graduated from high school near the top of his class and had prepared for university, his plans were thwarted when deployment orders came to face off with ISIS in a combat engineer role. He leaves soon for the Middle East.

Abby, I need your insight in understanding why I am not falling apart. My other children are, my relatives are, and people I speak to are stunned that I'm holding it together. I try to explain that I support my son and must be strong for my family, but am I in denial? Everyone else is falling apart while I, who adore him and can't envision a life without him, seem to be holding steady.

What's going on with me? Am I a flawed mother? I feel like I'm disappointing others who would prefer to see a soldier's mother grieve and agonize over her son's departure, anticipating the worst. Your thoughts are most welcome.

BAFFLED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BAFFLED: You are not "flawed." Not everyone handles emotionally charged situations in the same way. While you may be numb with shock, you may also be calm, stoic and not show your feelings openly. It's also possible that you may be "postponing" any negative emotions until if and when it's necessary to experience them. My reaction is that no one should judge you -- least of all yourself right now.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm the father of a beautiful, intelligent 9-year-old daughter I'll call Stella. About three years ago, her mother married a man from an affluent family and moved three hours away. In order to be closer to Stella, I moved there as well.

I have been divorced for six years now, and my relationship with my daughter has not improved during that time. I spend every Thursday afternoon with her and every other weekend. She recently joined a basketball team, and I go to her practices and games.

My biggest concern—and pain—is, whenever Stella is with me she cries for her mother. It hurts, because I have tried hard to foster a relationship with my daughter and have been unable to. I took her to Disney World and she spent half the time crying. I ask myself if I am only hurting her or if I should continue to see her. Can you give me some advice?

DISAPPOINTED DADDY IN TEXAS

DEAR DISAPPOINTED DADDY: Have you talked to Stella's mother and asked her what's going on with your daughter? By age 9 she's a little old for separation anxiety. Not knowing everyone involved, my first reaction is to wonder if there has been parental alienation happening.

My second is to suggest that you enlist the help of a licensed family therapist to find out why Stella acts this way every time she's alone with you. If the problem is that she is immature, ride things out. If it's something more, then it's important you get to the bottom of it.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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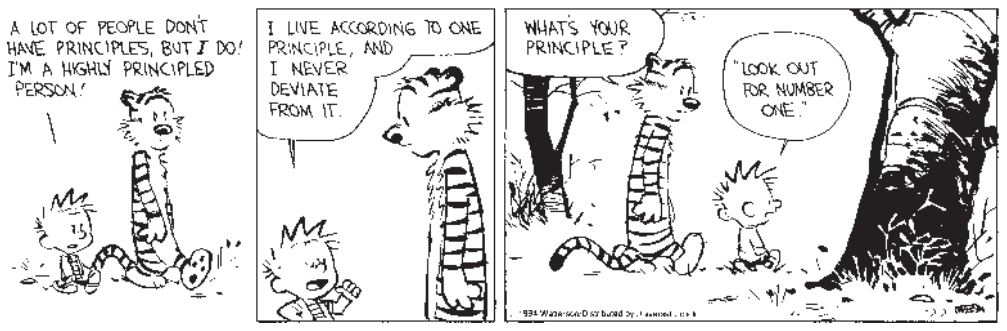
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

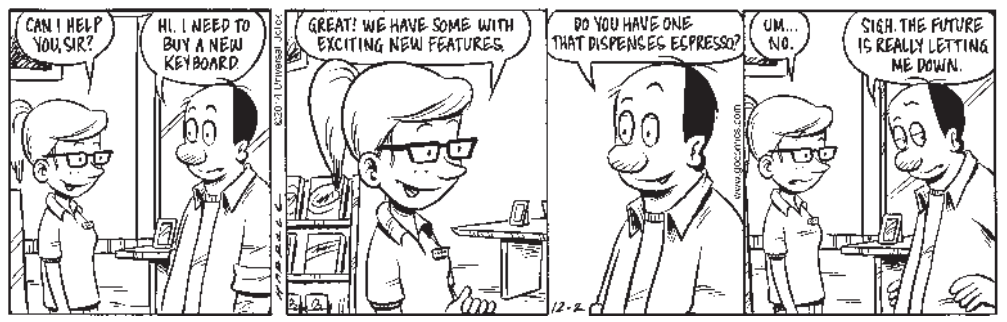

A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T HAVE PRINCIPLES, BUT I DO! I'M A HIGHLY PRINCIPLED PERSON!
I LIVE ACCORDING TO ONE PRINCIPLE, AND I NEVER DEVIATE FROM IT.
WHAT'S YOUR PRINCIPLE?
"LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
HI. I NEED TO BUY A NEW KEYBOARD.
GREAT! WE HAVE SOME WITH EXCITING NEW FEATURES.
DO YOU HAVE ONE THAT DISPENSES ESPRESSO?
UM... NO.
SIGH. THE FUTURE IS REALLY LETTING ME DOWN.
12-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
I'M STARTING MY NEW JOB AT THE MALL.
I'M ONE OF SANTA'S ELVES.
DO YOUR TIGHTS HAVE TO BE THAT TIGHT?
IT HELPS MAKE MY VOICE MORE "ELFISH."
12-2

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

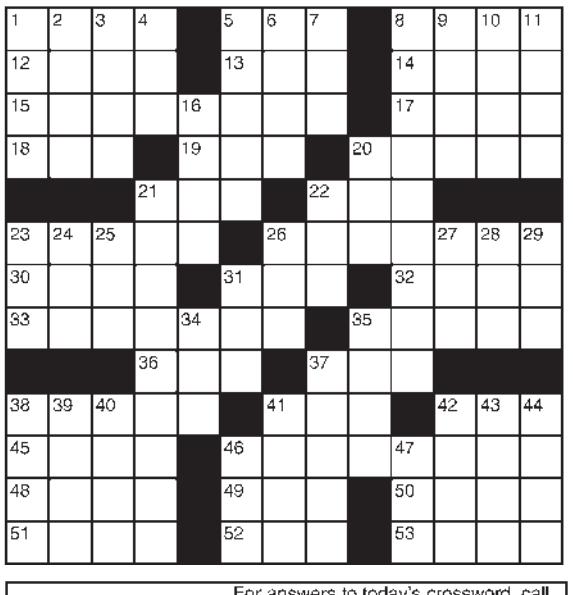
ACROSS
1 Open somewhat
5 Tavern
8 Got larger
12 Humdinger
13 Freudian concept
14 Libertine
15 Ares, for one
17 Count counterpart
18 Sailor's assent
19 Glutton
20 Church council
21 Roscoe
22 Peruke
23 Boutique
26 "On the Road" writer
30 Additionally
31 Hasten
32 Killer whale
33 Walked like a penguin
35 Small spot of land
36 Jewel
37 Praise in verse
38 Polo or tee
41 Hooter
42 Used a shovel
45 "— but known ..."
46 2014 Affleck film
48 Shaving cream additive
49 Individual
50 Facility
51 Red Riding Hood's foe
52 Evil
53 Verve

DOWN
1 Plankton component
2 Twelve in a box?
3 Sheltered
4 Regret
5 Sired
6 Thunderstruck
7 Scepter
8 Vodka brand
9 Reddish horse
10 Continental currency
11 Use a blowtorch
16 "Star Trek II: The Wrath of —"
20 Round Table address
21 Charlie Brown's interjection
22 Tiny
23 Witnessed
24 Carte intro
25 "Acid"
26 Josh
27 Web address
28 Expert
29 Jazz fan
31 Height of fashion?
34 Allow
35 Between assignments
37 Possessed
38 "Pygmalion" writer
39 Angel's topper
40 "American —"
41 Charlie's daughter
42 Use an old phone
43 — Major
44 Hidden valley
46 Sailor
47 "Holy cow!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	R	B	■	■	B	R	A	■	A	D	A	M
D	U	E	S	■	A	I	L	■	U	N	D	O
E	S	A	U	■	G	O	O	■	T	A	M	P
S	T	U	M	P	■	T	O	=	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	E	N	■	F	E	M	M	E	S
L	A	Z	E	N	B	Y	■	E	N	A	C	T
E	M	I	R	■	C	A	P	■	L	U	R	E
S	A	M	B	A	■	W	I	S	E	D	U	P
S	T	A	R	C	H	■	P	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	F	T	A	S	■	A	V	A	I	I
A	C	M	E	■	R	O	Y	■	E	L	S	E
C	I	I	E	Z	■	P	D	A	■	S	O	L
E	A	S	E	■	O	A	K	■	■	E	E	K

Yesterday's answer 12-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Britney Spears, 33; Nelly Furtado, 36; Rena Sofer, 46; Lucy Liu, 46.

Happy Birthday: You've got plenty of choices, so think big while remaining realistic. The combination will help you reach your goals successfully. Adaptability is your saving grace, and chance will keep you from boredom. Listen carefully, do your research and stick to the facts, and you will bypass any unfortunate mishap caused by vague conversations. Love is highlighted. Your numbers are 6, 10, 13, 20, 27, 34, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get together with people you find mentally stimulating. Enjoy sharing information and you will find a way to make positive changes to the way you live. Don't let someone you work with bully you. Use your intelligence to outsmart an aggressor. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Tie up loose ends. Financial gains can be made if you invest in yourself. Add to your skills or knowledge and you will be able to apply for a better position. Talking with someone you respect will lead to a new opportunity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Strive to reach personal goals. Self-improvement will result in compliments. Stand up to anyone who gets in your way. Your knowledge and expressive way of dealing with others will buy you time. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Refuse to let your emotions take over. Listen carefully and take care of your responsibilities. Someone will take advantage of you if you don't clearly state what you will and won't do. Put yourself on the line and be consistent. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Add a little excitement to your life. Plan a trip or indulge in something you've never done before. Open your mind to learning new skills that can be incorporated into your resume. Stop dreaming and start doing. Love is beckoning you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Hold on to what you've got. Don't give in to someone pressuring you to spend your money. You can make an investment, but stay within your means. Do what feels right and works for you. Personal problems will be based on false information. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get out and meet new people. A partnership will lead to new possibilities. Sharing ideas and space with someone looks favorable, as long as you iron out any kinks at the very beginning. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Change can be good if it's built on solid ground. Don't be a follower or you will have regrets. Take your own unique path and develop what works best for you. Recognition is heading your way, along with new opportunities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Improve your surroundings and start getting ready for the holiday season. You can make financial gains if you take care of unfinished business. Concentrate on new beginnings. Love and romance are on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Mull over any suggestions without feeling the need to make hasty decisions. Don't fall for the tactics used by someone who wants to manipulate you emotionally. It's OK to waffle if the cost is high and uncertainty prevails. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Give whatever you do your best shot and head for the finish line. You have more going for you than you realize. A promotion, change of status or recognition will give you the confidence you need to forge ahead. Embrace change. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Work on creative endeavors that can bring in extra cash or help you save during the upcoming months. Striving for greater stability or financial security will pay off. Good fortune can be yours if you make the right choices. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and challenging. You are a lover and a crusader.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9		8		6
		2			8	3		
	6				5		7	1
						6	4	
7				2				9
	1	8						
2	8		6				5	
		5	4			7		
4		6		8				

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	4	9	7	3	5	6	1
7	5	1	2	6	8	4	9	3
6	9	3	4	5	1	8	7	2
5	6	7	1	2	9	3	4	8
4	8	2	5	3	7	9	1	6
1	3	9	6	8	4	7	2	5
2	1	8	7	4	5	6	3	9
9	7	5	3	1	6	2	8	4
3	4	6	8	9	2	1	5	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PRODUCED BY HARVEY WEINSTEIN **Solution: 12 letters**

E	A	R	E	D	A	E	R	Y	K	R	O	C	M	M
S	N	O	A	H	A	P	L	L	R	E	G	R	U	B
U	I	G	T	M	A	I	R	I	M	X	A	M	S	I
O	G	U	L	W	B	A	D	O	L	R	C	C	I	Y
H	R	E	A	I	E	O	M	N	D	Y	I	O	C	T
T	O	K	L	P	S	A	B	M	I	U	H	N	A	I
R	E	I	E	C	R	H	E	V	E	A	C	C	L	C
A	G	D	W	T	O	W	P	L	A	Y	S	E	S	N
V	Y	S	I	N	A	M	P	A	H	C	G	R	R	I
I	E	N	S	R	K	Ⓜ	M	I	T	M	I	T	A	S
A	C	X	O	C	S	Ⓛ	R	A	Y	I	V	S	M	T
T	A	N	O	T	L	Ⓘ	H	C	N	A	E	F	I	U
O	E	R	I	L	S	Ⓕ	C	M	R	D	R	N	S	D
R	P	L	U	P	S	M	O	K	E	O	E	D	T	I
S	D	E	K	N	I	W	D	O	O	H	W	R	S	O

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Arthouse, Aviator, Awake, Bob, Burger, Chapman, Chicago, Chilton, Commander, Concerts, Corky, Crow, Emma, English, Eve, Film, Georgina, Giver, Hoodwinked, India, Iris, Kids, Lewis, Lily, Martin, Max, Miriam, Mists, Musicals, Patient, Peace, Pearl, Plays, Producers, Pulp, Rambo, Reader, Rock, Rogue, Ruth, Sicko, Sin City, Smoke, Studio, Tony, War, Yards

Yesterday's Answer: Read-to-Wear

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1 Operations Manager: $6.50/hr. At least three years of managerial experience in auto repair shop operations required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Restaurant Manager (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years' managerial experience in a restaurant specializing in Korean cuisine required.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Manager: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required.

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- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology
- Must be over five years' experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Licensed by the Medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up applications at Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit applications will be on 12/12/2014 at 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Maggie Torres at (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

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DAY & NIGHT

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LSG SKY CHEFS is looking for to the following positions:

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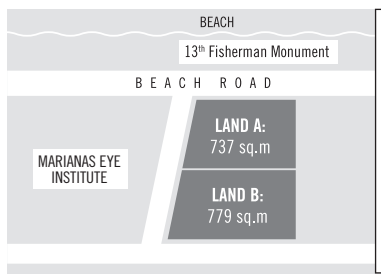
Requirements: Superior Court and District/Federal Court Police Clearance and Health Certificate. Applications are available at the Main Office located at the airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office.
No Phone Calls Please

LAND FOR ASSIGMENT



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Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:

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- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
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Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) DIRECTOR OF FOOD & BEVERAGE
Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred or minimum of 4 years work experience in a hotel food and beverage environment. Experience with and good understanding of financial and operational management of a hotel food and beverage operation. Excellent customer service skills and a passion for the hospitality industry. Stable work history and demonstrated achievement in progressively more responsible positions in hotel food and beverage operations along with strong, supportive employment references. Knowledgeable of safe sanitary procedures and health codes, overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Conducts training on employees relating to the F&B Operation. Proven ability to effectively build a team environment and makes decisions in a fast paced environment. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 01, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Packers hold off Patriots in high-profile matchup

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AP) — Aaron Rodgers threw for two touchdowns and Eddie Lacy ran for key yards in the fourth quarter as the Green Bay Packers fended off the New England Patriots 26-21 Sunday in a high-profile matchup between Super Bowl contenders.

Rodgers bested Tom Brady in the first meeting between the star quarterbacks as starters. Rodgers connected with Richard Rodgers and Jordy Nelson for long touchdowns.

Leading by five, the defense held firm late for the Packers (9-3). Mike Daniels and Mike Neal combined to sack Brady on third down for a 9-yard loss, and kicker Stephen Gostkowkski pushed a 47-yard field-goal attempt wide right with 2:40 left.

The Packers sealed it after Rodgers converted to Cobb on third-and-4 with the Patriots out of timeouts.

Brady finished with two touchdown passes to Brandon LaFell for New England (9-3), which had its seven-game winning streak snapped. The second score came from 15 yards early in the fourth quarter to get within 23-21.

The lead could have been wider for the Packers if not for some hiccups in the red zone.

Green Bay settled for four field goals from Mason Crosby of 35 yards or less, including a 28-yarder to make it a five-point lead with 8:41 left. That kick came after rookie Davante Adams dropped a potential touchdown pass on third-and-5 from the New England 10.

AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is sacked by New England Patriots' Dont'a Hightower and Zach Moore (90) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in Green Bay, Wis.

Broncos 29, Chiefs 16

In Kansas City, Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes and Connor Barth was perfect on five field-goal attempts.

C.J. Anderson added 168 yards rushing and caught a 15-yard touchdown pass, and Demaryius Thomas also had a TD grab to help the Broncos (9-3) beat Kansas City for the sixth straight time.

Alex Smith threw for 153 yards and two touchdowns for the Chiefs (7-5), the second of them to Jamaal Charles to make it 26-16 early in the fourth quarter. But Smith's pass on the 2-point try fell incomplete, and the Broncos added another field goal to put the game away.

The victory kept Denver a game up on San Diego in the division race.

Bengals 14, Buccaneers 13

In Tampa Bay, Andy Dalton ran for one touchdown and threw to A.J. Green for another, helping the Bengals overcome numerous mistakes.

Dalton shrugged off three first-half interceptions, and the Bengals (8-3-1) weathered 10 penalties and an ill-advised onside kick that cost them momentum after taking the lead in the second half to win on the road for the third consecutive week. That's a franchise first that seemed improbable following a lopsided home loss to Cleveland a month ago.

The Bengals lead the tightest division race in the NFL, with a 1½-game lead over each of their AFC North rivals — all of whom lost.

Tampa Bay (2-10) threatened in the closing minutes. However, a 21-yard completion that would have put the Bucs in field goal range was overturned after a replay review confirmed the Bucs had 12 men on the field on the play.

The ball was moved back to the 46, an additional 14 seconds were added to the clock, and Tampa Bay turned over the ball on downs.

Chargers 34, Ravens 33

In Baltimore, Philip Rivers capped a frantic drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Eddie Royal with 38 seconds to go. The Chargers (8-4) trailed 30-20 with 6:13 remaining and 33-27 with 2:22 left before Rivers brought them back.

Following a pass interference call against Anthony Levine in the end zone, Rivers hit Royal to conclude an 80-yard march to the Chargers' third straight win.

Baltimore (7-5) lost at home in November for the first time since 2009. The Ravens were 11-0 all-time at home against West Coast teams.

Rivers went for 34 for 45 for 383 yards and three touchdowns, two to Keenan Allen.

Joe Flacco threw for two scores for Baltimore, which wasted four field goals from Justin Tucker and 106 yards rushing from Justin Forsett.

Saints 35, Steelers 32

In Pittsburgh, Drew Brees threw five touchdowns for the ninth time in his career as the Saints dominated the sloppy Steelers.

Kenny Stills caught five passes for a career-high 162 yards and a score as the Saints (5-7) ended a three-game losing streak by restoring a little bit of respectability and a sense of order to the NFC South.

The Steelers (7-5) kept New Orleans tight end Jimmy Graham without a catch, but it hardly mattered. Brees worked over Pittsburgh's secondary anyway. Ben Watson, Marques Colston, Erik Loring and Nick Toon hauled in touchdowns.

Ben Roethlisberger passed for 435 yards and two touchdowns, but also threw two interceptions for the Steelers.

Bills 26, Browns 10

In Orchard Park, Quarterback Kyle Orton and defensive end Jerry Hughes scored touchdowns 10 seconds apart in the third quarter.

Orton put the Bills ahead 7-3 with a 3-yard pass to Chris Hogan. Buffalo's defense scored on the next play from scrimmage when Hughes stripped the ball from running back Terrence West, and returned the fumble 18 yards.

It was too deep of a hole for Browns rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel to dig out of. Taking over with 12:01 left after starter Brian Hoyer threw his second interception, Manziel capped an eight-play, 80-yard drive with a 10-yard run that cut Buffalo's lead to 20-10.

The Bills (7-5) won their second straight. Cleveland (7-5) lost for only the second time in six games.

Falcons 29, Cardinals 18

In Atlanta, Julio Jones had a career day, catching 10 passes for 189 yards and a touchdown to keep the Falcons in first place in the NFC South.

Arizona (9-3) still leads the NFC West after its second straight loss, but its lead over defending Super Bowl champion Seattle dwindled to a single game.

More troubling for the Cardinals, they had gone more than 11 quarters without an offensive touchdown until a meaningless score with just over a minute remaining.

Steven Jackson broke off a 55-yard run — his longest since 2009 — to set up a touchdown on the Falcons' opening possession.

Jones hauled in a 32-yard scoring pass, and Matt Bryant kicked a career-best five field goals for the Falcons (5-7), who matched New Orleans' 35-32 win at Pittsburgh to remain tied for the top spot in the NFC South.

Texans 45, Titans 21

In Houston, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for a franchise-record six touchdowns and DeAndre Hopkins had a career-best 238 yards receiving and two scores. Fitzpatrick returned to the lineup after being benched for two games for Ryan Mallett, who suffered a season-ending chest injury last week.

J.J. Watt helped out in the win, too. He had his third touchdown reception, two sacks, forced and recovered a fumble for Houston (6-6).

Tennessee's Zach Mettenberger injured his right shoulder playing behind a makeshift offensive line missing three starters. Jake Locker took over in the third quarter and threw for 91 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions for the Titans (2-10), who have lost six straight.

Rams 52, Raiders 0

In St. Louis, Tre Mason scored two long touchdowns and Shaun Hill accounted for three TDs in the rout. St. Louis had an out-of-nowhere 38-point first half that tied for second biggest in franchise history.

Mason had 113 yards rushing on six carries in the half with an 89-yard score, plus a 35-yard jaunt on a screen pass that opened the scoring. Hill was 12 for 15 for 178 yards and two TDs and ran for a 2-yard score.

The Rams (5-7) scored touchdowns on their first five possessions, got a field goal on the sixth midway through the second quarter to top their previous best scoring total for any game this season. The 38-point halftime lead was the largest in franchise history, one more than against Green Bay in 1980.

The Raiders (1-11) were never competitive and committed five turnovers.

Colts 49, Redskins 27

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck threw a career-high five touchdown passes and topped the 300-yard mark for a franchise-record 10th time this season.

Indianapolis (8-4) won for the eighth time in 10 games since starting 0-2.

Luck was 19 of 27 for 370 yards and had TD passes of 30, 3, 48, 73 and 79 yards. He broke Peyton Manning's mark for most 300-yard games in one season and joined Manning and Dan Marino as the only quarterbacks to top 4,000 yards in two of their first three seasons.

He did all that while Robert Griffin III, the No. 2 overall pick behind Luck in 2012, watched from the sideline. Griffin's replacement, Colt McCoy, was 31 of 47 for a career-best 392 yards and three TDs, also a career high.

Washington (3-9) has lost four straight.

Vikings 31, Panthers 13

In Minneapolis, Adam Thielen and Everson Griffen each returned blocked punts by Minnesota for touchdowns, the fifth time in league history one team had two in the same game.

Teddy Bridgewater threw for two scores without a turnover, and Griffen had two of the four sacks by the Vikings (5-7) against Cam Newton.

Despite entering the week just a half-game out of first place in the struggling NFC South, the Panthers (3-8-1) again stumbled out of their bye. They're 0-4 under coach Ron Rivera following the annual in-season week off, and have lost six in a row overall this season.

This was the seventh-coldest game in Vikings history, with a kickoff temperature of 12 degrees. They're playing outside this year for the first time since 1981.

Jaguars 25, Giants 24

In Jacksonville, Josh Scobee kicked a 43-yard field goal with 28 seconds remaining, and the Jaguars rallied from a 21-point deficit.

The Jaguars (2-10) ended a four-game losing streak and dealt the Giants (3-9) a seventh consecutive loss that could raise more questions about coach Tom Coughlin's future.

The Giants dominated the first half, scoring 21 points in the second quarter and looking like they would notch their first victory since early October.

But after the break Geno Hayes forced Eli Manning to fumble and teammate J.T. Thomas recovered in the end zone.

Rookie Aaron Colvin returned a fumble 41 yards for a touchdown in the fourth period. It was the first time in franchise history Jacksonville scored two defensive touchdowns in the same game.

Wade scores 27 in return, lifts Heat past Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—Dwyane Wade returned from a seven-game absence to score 27 points - 13 in the fourth quarter -and the Miami Heat beat the New York Knicks 86-79 on Sunday night.

Chris Bosh added 20 for the Heat, including a crucial 3-pointer with 1:07 left as Miami held off a late New York rally.

Carmelo Anthony also returned after a two-game absence because of back spasms to score 31 points for the Knicks. Amare Stoudemire had 19 points and 12 rebounds

After trailing by as many as 16, the Knicks pulled to 65-63 on Tim Hardaway Jr.'s layup with 9:22 left.

Wade, sidelined since Nov. 12 by a hamstring injury, followed with a baseline jumper and scored 12 of Miami's next 15 points to help the Heat maintain the lead.

After the Knicks again pulled to 79-77 on Stoudemire's tip-in with 1:23 left, Bosh hit his 3-pointer and New York never got closer.

The Heat opened a 10-2 lead and never relinquished the advantage.

Miami took its biggest lead, 37-21, on Bosh's layup with 4:48 remaining in the first half. The Heat had led 21-17 after the first quarter before beginning the second on a 16-4 run.

Luol Deng had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat. Bosh added nine rebounds.

Samuel Dalembert and Jose Calderon each had 10 rebounds for the Knicks.

Lakers 129, Raptors 122

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had 31 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for his 20th career triple-double as the Los Angeles Lakers ended a four-game losing streak with a 129-122 overtime victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

Seven players scored in double figures for the Lakers, including all five starters. Nick Young added 20 points off the bench, Carlos Boozer scored 18 and Jordan Hill had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Kyle Lowry had 29 points, nine assists and six rebounds for Toronto before fouling out with 2.8 seconds left in overtime. Terrence Ross had 20 points and Lou Williams added 19 off the bench for the Raptors, whose 13-3 record entering the game was the best start in franchise history.

Toronto played without leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, who tore a tendon in his left groin during Friday's 106-102 loss to Dallas and is out indefinitely. Greivis Vasquez made his first start of the season and scored 19 points.

Spurs 111, Celtics 89

In Boston, Danny Green scored 18 points and coach Gregg Popovich returned from a two-game absence to lead San Antonio over Boston for its seventh straight victory.

Popovich returned for the opener of a four-game trip after missing two games following an undisclosed minor medical procedure.

Leading 80-77 with 10 minutes left, the Spurs went on a 14-2 run to take a 94-79 lead with 6:11 left on a layup by Cory Joseph. After Jeff Green made a free throw for Boston, cutting the lead to 94-80, Aron Baynes beat the 24-second clock with a 3-pointer then made a layup for a 99-80 lead with 4:36 to go.

Boris Diaw had 15 points and Tim Duncan added 14 for the Spurs. The Celtics were led by Jeff Green with 16 points and Evan Turner with 12 as they dropped to 1-7 in their last eight games.

Rajon Rondo finished with only two points and missed both of his free throws. He has made just 9 of 30 all season.

Bulls 102, Nets 84

In New York, Jimmy Butler had 26 points and Pau Gasol had 25 points and 13 rebounds, leading Chicago past Brooklyn.

Rookie Bojan Bogdanovic led the Nets with 13 points and reserve Jarret Jack added 12.

Derrick Rose had 14 points and reserve Nikola Mirotic chipped in 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who capped a seven-game, 14-day road trip with their second straight win and finished 4-3 overall. Chicago's United Center had been reserved for the annual circus show, forcing the Bulls on the road.

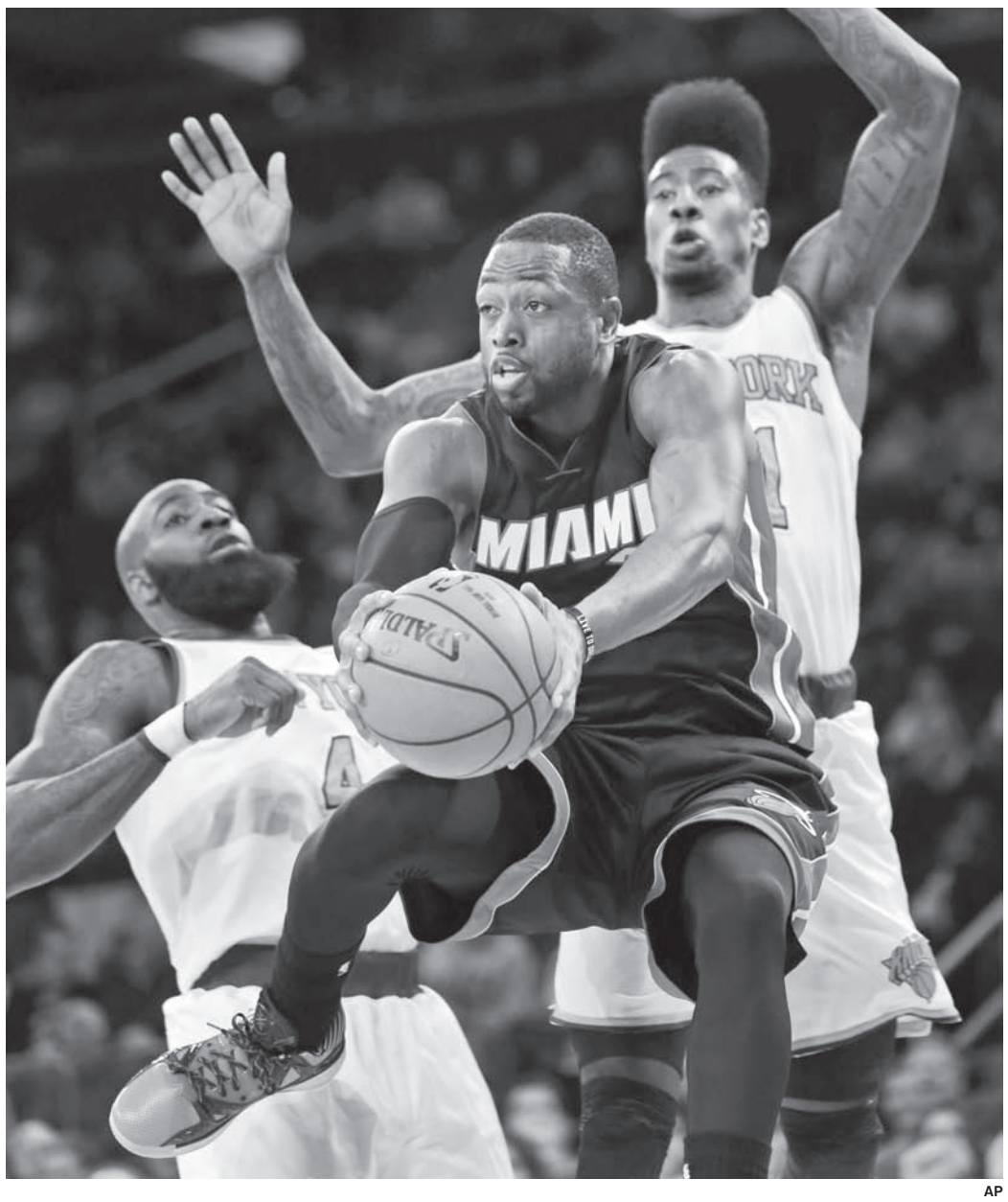
Warriors 104, Pistons 93

In Auburn Hills, Draymond Green scored 20 points and Stephen Curry added 16 points and 10 assists to help Golden State beat Detroit for its ninth straight victory.

Marreese Speights added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors (14-2).

The Pistons (3-14) have lost eight in a row, the longest streak of Stan Van Gundy's coaching career, and have matched his career worst at 11 games under .500. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope led Detroit with 23 points.

Van Gundy broke up his usual three-post lineup against the smaller Warriors, starting Kyle Singler at small forward and bringing Greg Monroe off the bench. It didn't work. Monroe, Andre Drummond and Josh Smith shot a combined 12 for 38.



AP

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, center, passes the ball while New York Knicks' Quincy Acy, left, and Iman Shumpert defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in New York.

Grizzlies, Kings 85

In Sacramento, Zach Randolph had 22 points and 12 rebounds, AND Marc Gasol added 18 points and six rebounds as Memphis held off a late rally to beat short-handed Sacramento for its fifth straight win.

The frontcourt tandem took advantage of a Kings team playing without center DeMarcus Cousins, who missed his second straight game because of a virus. The Grizzlies built a 21-point lead in the second quarter and pulled away again in the fourth to stretch their NBA-best record to 15-2.

Rudy Gay scored 20 points and reserve Reggie Evans finished with 17 points and 20 rebounds as Sacramento (9-8) lost its third game in a row.

Magic 93, Suns 90

In Phoenix, Tobias Harris scored 21 points as Orlando held off a late rally to beat Phoenix and snap a four-game losing streak.

Nikola Vucevic added 18 points for the Magic, who led by 16 early in the fourth quarter before the Suns cut it to three with 1:02 to play.

Phoenix coach John Hornacek drew a technical on Orlando's next possession, the coach claiming to no avail that Vucevic traveled on a layup.

Consecutive 3-pointers by Goran Dragic and Gerald Green, the second with 2.9 seconds to go, cut the lead to one, Evan Fournier sank two free throws with 1.6 seconds to go and Phoenix failed to get a shot off at the buzzer.

Dragic scored 22 points and Markieff Morris had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Suns.

Blazers 107, Timberwolves 93

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and 15 rebounds to pace Portland over Minnesota.

Wesley Matthews added 23 points, including six 3-pointers for his third straight game with at least five 3-pointers, and the Blazers led by as many as 16 points.

Portland was coming off a 112-99 loss to Memphis on Friday night that snapped a nine-game winning streak.

Shabazz Muhammad came off the bench with 28 points for Minnesota, which used just nine players. The Timberwolves have won just four games this season, including a 120-119 win in Los Angeles over the Lakers on Friday.

Injuries and illness have decimated the Timberwolves. The latest was rookie forward Andrew Wiggins, who played just under 19 minutes after he was a game-time decision with a flu-like illness.

SIDEBAR

Kobe reaches 30K points, 6K assists

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On Sunday night, Kobe Bryant set another record against the Toronto Raptors in a rare Los Angeles Lakers' victory at Staples Center.

Against the team that he famously torched for 81 points, Bryant recorded his 6,000th NBA assist. With the pass to Wesley Johnson, Bryant became the first player in NBA history to have 30,000 points and 6,000 assists.

From the onset, Bryant appeared to have his mind set on passing the ball. Bryant did not take his first shot until over eight minutes into the game. By that point, every other Lakers' starter had scored and Bryant already had four assists.

In the second quarter, Bryant and the Lakers would continue to attack with balance. By halftime, four Lakers were in double figures in points compared to only one player from Toronto hitting that mark. At that point, Carlos Boozer led the way with 12 points, but Jordan Hill, Nick Young and Bryant were close behind with 10 points apiece.

In the third period, the Lakers continued their trend of coming out flat. Bryant would play all 12 minutes of the quarter, but even an inspired and historic night by one of the greatest ever could not turn around the Lakers' third quarter woes. The Raptors cut a nine-point halftime deficit to only one point entering the fourth quarter.

With the game on the line, Bryant came back in to take charge. As much as this night would be remembered for Bryant's career of passing, the fourth quarter would go down as one of Bryant's vintage game-winning performances.

Down the stretch, no. 24 scored eight points, including a memorable baseline fadeaway jump shot. Bryant would also dish out a crowd-raising assist to Young for a three-pointer that gave the Lakers a four-point lead with less than a minute and a half to play. However, a three-point play for the Raptors would quickly set the game up for an exciting finish.

In an exciting final couple minutes of regulation that included two missed free throws from Bryant, the Lakers got the ball back with 13 seconds to play in a tie ball game. Bryant attacked the rim but did not earn a foul call. The buzzer rang, and the Lakers and Raptors went to overtime.

In the overtime, Bryant would continue to attack offensively. Again, though, he went to the foul line and missed. Bryant would shake off the free throw issues and get his foul shot right. He continued to demand the ball, receive the ball and score the ball. Bryant scored seven crucial points in the overtime period.

Also, Bryant notched the 20th triple-double of his career when he grabbed a rebound late in overtime. Bryant finished with 31 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds. The Lakers went to 4-13 on the season.

Meanwhile, months after authorities dropped domestic assault charges against him, free agent forward Dante Cunningham could be returning to the NBA.

Cunningham, a 6-foot-8 forward, worked out for the New Orleans Pelicans over the weekend and the franchise is strongly consider signing him soon, sources said.

The NBA recently suspended Charlotte's Jeffrey Taylor 24 games after he plead guilty in a misdemeanor domestic assault case. Despite charges being dropped against Cunningham, it was immediately unclear if he faced any league discipline.

New Orleans cleared two rosters spots on Sunday with the release of Darius Miller and Patric Young.

Cunningham, 27, has been working to clear his name with NBA executives since a domestic assault arrest in April in Minneapolis. As a member of the Timberwolves, Cunningham was charged with an assault on his then girlfriend, but charges were eventually dropped and police found that his accuser's story included falsehoods.

Shirley's makes move in Traders team tourney

JON PEREZ

Shirley's Badminton Club's Anette Ta attempts to make a drop shot in her and Cris Hilario's game against Taga Badminton's Celso Agui and Cristy Villaflor in the 8th Traders Insurance Badminton team tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Shirley's Badminton Club dominated Taga Badminton Club in the final day of their matchup, scoring a masterful 14-1 decision last Sunday night in the second full week of the 2014 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex

Shirley's has now collected 36 points, while giving up 24 markers to tie the Community Badminton Club for the second to third spots, just 9 behind three-time titlists Saipan Badminton Club's 45-15 record.

Taga, which was running second in the early goings of the 8th edition of the annual team tournament, dropped to fourth at 32-58, while Golden Racquets completes the standings with its 31-59.

Three points are awarded to a team that wins a match in two games, while 2 points are given to the winning squad and one to its opponent if the match goes to three.

Cris Hilario and Jeff Riman kicked things off for Shirley's with a 21-15, 21-11 win over Edwin Montoya and Joel Ortega in the men's doubles B division. Aries Cordero then teamed up with Patrick Fernandez in squeezing out a 21-19, 21-18 triumph over Ortega and Panapa Peteru in the men's doubles BC class.

Cordero later joined Vilma Reyes in beating Montoya and Gigi Zapanta, 21-16, 21-20, in the mixed doubles BC.

Hilario and Anette Ta escaped with a 21-18, 16-21, 21-7 victory over Celso Agui and Cristy Villaflor in the mixed doubles BB. Agui and Villaflor, needing only one more point in the second game, had some anxious moments as they allowed Hilario and Ta to score 6 straight points to threaten at 20-16. The Taga pair forced a deciding third set when its opponents made an unforced error. However, Hilario and Ta won't be denied of the win as they totally dominated Agui and Villaflor in the third.

Meanwhile, CBC would have earned solo second place and further breathe down SBC's neck if not for a 6-9 loss to Golden Racquets in the final day of their doubles matches.

George Olanda and Vic Regis opened Golden Racquets' campaign with a 21-19 21-16 win over Deether Edralin and Owen Ou in the men's doubles B. Edralin then partnered with Jon Costales to bounce back with a 21-18, 21-12 decision against Olanda and Ronnie Tan.

Zeke Macario and Patricia Abantao earned another 3 points for CBC after beating the husband-and-wife tandem of Jojo and Merlie Savellano, 21-12, 21-19, in the mixed BC class. That proved to be CBC's last win, as it dropped the mixed BB and men's CC matches, giving Golden Racquets the needed 6 points to catch up with Taga.

Regis and Marylyn Montano bested Macario and Havika Farro, 21-12, 21-16, while Tan and Eydie Uy tripped Costales and Jeremi Montanejo, 21-13, 21-17.

Action continues this weekend with Shirley's taking on Golden Racquets and CBC clashing with SBC on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, SBC and Taga, and CBC and Shirley's will play the first of their two-day matchup. Matches on Friday will be in the men's B, BC, A, and women's B and A divisions, while on Saturday it will be the turn of men's AB, C, and mixed BC, B and AB players.

Zapanta, Camacho strike in November roll-offs

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ruselle Zapanta and Diana Camacho ruled the November roll-offs of the Budweiser Monthly King and Queen of the Lanes held at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta nearly finished the 4-game roll off in the 200s to win his first King of the Lane crown this year. He finished with an 819 for a 204.75 average and pocketed the $90 top purse.

Zapanta, fresh from helping the CNMI men's four-member team to an eighth place finish in last month's 28th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships in the Philippines, opened with a 213 to sit at third behind the 224 and 220 of Paul Pangelinan and Raymond Angeles, respectively.

Zapanta, who booked his spot in next year's finals, followed it up with a 199 before closing out with a 206 and 201 for his more than 800 pinfalls.

Perennial men's contender Percy Omechelang was 51 pinfalls behind to finish second with 768—202, 180, 171, 215. He averaged 192 and brought home the $40 cash prize that goes with his runner-up finish.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ruselle Zapanta, left, and Diana Camacho pose with their prizes after winning Saipan Bowling Association's November roll-offs at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Omechelang, despite failing to nail his fourth monthly crown, has already booked his place in the January finale as he previously won in June, July, and October.

Lito Teodoro finished third and got $25 after a 748—194, 164, 162, 228.

Meanwhile, Camacho topped the Queen of the Lanes with a day's best of 715 or 42 pins ahead of last month's winner Gloria Omechelang.

Camacho, who was the CNMI's top female bowler in the San Juan edition of the annual Asian Intercity tournament, pocketed $80. She also ruled the June, July and September roll-offs.

Carrie Camacho managed to catch up with Omechelang (188, 199, 148, 138) as they ended up tied for second to third with 673s. Carrie Camacho had a roller-coaster performance of 139, 190, 151 and 193 to match Omechelang's 168.25 average and receive $28.

MORIS

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nating Cho, 8-1.

Meanwhile, in the boys U14 singles, Robbie Schorr bested seven other participants to bring home the division crown in the annual event for the first time.

Schorr, who notched last year's boys U12 title, added the U14 plum to his collection after sweeping Vincent Tudela in last Sunday's finals at Fiesta, 6-0, 6-4.

It was an upset win for Schorr, as the second-ranked player defeated his top-seeded foe. Schorr moved one win away from bagging the division title after eliminating A.J. Hudkins last Friday, 6-1, 6-1, and topping Tony Kim last Saturday, 6-3, 6-3. Tudela, on the other hand, won over Steven Goodwin, 6-2, 3-6, 10-5, and against Clayton Izuka, 6-1, 6-0, to arrange the title showdown between the Top 2 seeds in the draw.

Joining Schorr and Tudela in the Top 3 was Kim, who defeated Izuka in the consolation match last Sunday, 8-2. Ken Song and Haruya Eda also prevailed in their respective loser's bracket matches. Kong wound up in fifth place after routing Goodwin, 8-1, while Eda avoided the cellar after beating Hudkins, 8-4.

MP

From Page 28

in the U12 competition after beating National Elite Academy U12 and Matansa Football Club in similar scores, 3-0. The champion team is composed of Go and Rei Sekiguchi, Daniele Colombo, Mark Esalan, Eun Syu Hahn, Tony Kim, Cullen Taisacan, Geon Ho Lee, Bryant Cayabyab, Maaya Sato, Sam Ryu, Kaito Sawaki, and Andy Kim.

The same team, which was coached by Kennedy Izuka and Chris Park and managed by May Ling Colombo, won the second qualifying round of the National Elite Academy-hosted event to notch a seat in the finale. Matansa topped the first qualifier, while NEA, which was composed of selected players from its elite pool, automatically gained entry to weekend competition. Tinian Premier Football Club was originally set to join the three teams in the finale, but did not make the Saipan trip.

With only three teams competing in the finals and to give participating squads enough time to rest, match commissioner and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi decided to divide each match to two halves with all three teams playing the first half of their respective games first.

Matansa and NEA suited up for the match first and engaged in a scoreless draw in the opening 20 minutes of the game, while MP United earned similar 1-0 edge over Matansa and NEA in the next two installment tiffs.

NEA resumed its duel against Matansa FC and this time scored three goals for the win and a good chance to prevail in the finale. MP United, on the other hand, added two more goals in the second half of its match against Matansa, making the former's second-half encounter with NEA the deciding game. NEA failed to hit the board in the final game of the weekend, while MP United collected two more goals to complete the title win.

Esalan scored the two goals in the second half, while Lee tallied the first one against NEA. Versus Matansa, Lee and Asan also made it to the board in the second half, while Hahn recorded one in the opening 20 minutes.

NEA, which organized the competition with the support of major sponsors Japan Football Association and Choco Milk/MARPAC and other contributors Anchor Milk (distributed by MBI), Triple J Motors, and Saipan Soccer School, drew its three goals from Kaden Church, Rinto Takahashi, and Rintaro Miyawaki.

TKEL

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The score remained 19-8 at the turn as both teams failed to hit the board in the second quarter.

Jeremy Agulto's fumble recovery kicked things off for Southern in the third and the Thunder later translated that into a Matthew Reyes TD run to again move within five, 19-14.

The Lightning defense, however, always had an answer every time the Thunder threatened to grab the lead. Tkel had his first TD run and third overall, while an Angailen safety made it 27-14, bridging the final moments of the third to early in the fourth period.

Donavin Ada and Tkel each ran for TDs, while Angailen made it 40-14 after a PAT.

The Thunder's Tyler Quitugua closed out the scoring from a Siech 20-yard TD pass, 40-20.

Norman Cabrera, despite the loss, made half of the 200 total passing yards of Southern with one TD, while Jaret Rosario completed 3 passes for 57 yards and one TD.

The Thunder completely shut down the Lightning's passing game, as Ada completed only 2 of his 18 passing attempts for 34 yards and was intercepted twice in the game.

Bundoc and Siech combined for 138 receiving yards compared to the 34 of the defending champs' Angailen and Ryuta Onuki.

The entire Lightning offense rushed for 456 yards against the 73 of the Thunder.

Meanwhile, the Thunder will aim to bounce back from the opening loss when they take on the Northern Saints this Saturday at 1pm also at the Airport Field.

2014 NMA Turkey Trot Fun Run

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants leave Lower Base for the race to Mt. Tapochao during the 2014 NMA Turkey Trot Fun Run last week.

Father and daughter Jeff and Gabrielle Race negotiate one of the few flat, but rocky roads to Mt. Tapochao.

Four runners slow down as they head to an uphill road.

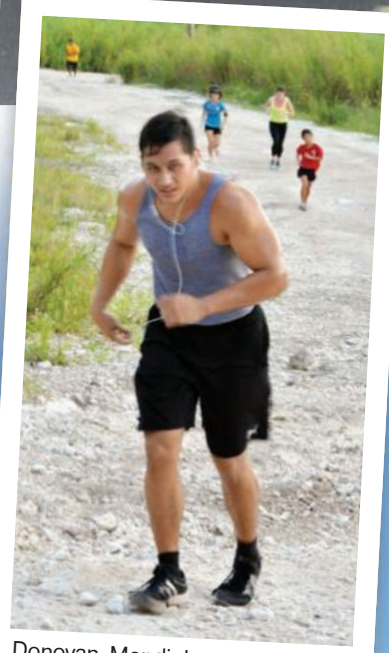
Runners head out to the course.

A group of runners heads to Capital Hill.

Tamio Nishikido leads a group of young runners.

Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez smiles to the camera before heading up to Mt. Tapochao.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel,right, and his student Seiya Eda try to chase the race leader.



Donovan Mendiola paces a small group of runners to an uphill road to Mt. Tapochao.

U.S. Army Reserve-backed runners pose for a photo after completing the race.

Packers hold off Patriots in high-profile matchup

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade scores 27 in return, lifts Heat past Knicks

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Moris beats Tommy in 3-set finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Moris Villanueva outlasted Tommy Choi in a marathon match in the co-ed U18 singles division finals of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Villanueva pulled off a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3) win in the more than three hours title match to make it to the champions list in the opening week of the two-weekend tournament.

The exciting finale, which left the exhausted Choi still cramping several minutes after the match concluded, featured the Top 2 seeds in the draw. Villanueva was ranked first and won his first match convincingly after dominating Woo Sun Cho last Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Court 2, 6-0, 6-0. The eventual champion was then pitted against female player Mikayla Lopez and remained unbeaten after notching a 6-2, 6-3 victory at Fiesta Court 2. The straight set win also gave Villanueva the first finals berth.

Choi was also undefeated in the first two games in the lower half of the draw to cinch the second finals seat. The second-ranked Choi started his title bid with a 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Colin Ramsey last Friday before eliminating the second female entry in the field—Negahr Rastguiy—6-3, 6-0.

Rastguiy and Lopez were left to battle for the third place trophy and the latter prevailed in the pro-set match last Sunday at Hyatt Court 2, 8-4. Before faltering in their respective finals bids, Lopez and Rastguiy both won their opening matches. Lopez was paired against Luther Lizama and eked out a 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 victory, while Rastguiy downed Michael Ren in straight sets, 7-5, 6-1.

Lizama battled back in the consolation bracket, topping Ramsey, 8-4, to finish fifth in the draw. Ren also won his consolation game after domi-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Moris Villanueva gets ready to serve during his co-ed U18 singles title match against Tommy Choi in the 2014 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

MP United tops Choco Milk Cup

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and officials of MP United FC U12 pose for a photo after winning the Choco Milk Cup 2014 last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It was a victorious weekend for MP United Football Club.

Less than 24 hours after the club's U18 clinched the 2014 FA Youth Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, MP United's U12 team secured the championship in the Choco Milk Cup 2014 last Sunday over at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

MP United bagged the title

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Tkel powers Lightning past Thunder

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Zander Tkel bulldozed his way against the Southern Thunder defense to power the defending champion Eastern Lightning to a 40-20 opening day win in the Commonwealth Football League Association 2014 Youth Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Tkel made four rushing touchdowns for 224 yards, while Donavin Ada ran for 136 more as they formed the Lightning's 1-2 scoring punch that tricked the Thunder defense all game long.

Ada connected with Tkel twice early in the first quarter, as the Lightning jumped to an early 13-0 lead. Kimo Angailen scored the extra point.

N-Nes Siech put the Thunder on the scoreboard after successfully catching one of Norman Cabrera's 3 completed passes, while Franko Bundoc made the 2-point conversion as Southern moved within 5, 13-8.

But Kevin Ogo scored on a 15-yard TD as the Eastern crew of coach David Ada entered the second quarter enjoying a 19-8 advantage.

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The Eastern Lightning's Donavin Ada, left, tries to shake off the defense of the Southern Thunder's Gaige Porras, second left, and Jeremy Agulto, third left, in the opening game of the CFLA Youth League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

JON PEREZ